

GREENE IN CONCEIPT.

New raised from his graue to write
the Tragique Historie of faire
Valeria of London.

WHEREIN IS TRVLV DISCOVERED
the rare and lamentable issue of a Hu. bands do-
tage, a wiues leudnesse, & childrens disobedience.

Receined and reported by I. D.

Veritas non querit angulos, umbra gaudet.



Printed at London by RICHARD BRADOCKE for
William Iones, dwelling at the signe of the Gunne
neare Holborne conduit. 1598.

GREENE IN CONCEPT.

New York: From the studio of the
the design of the
of London.

THESE IS THE DISCOVERY

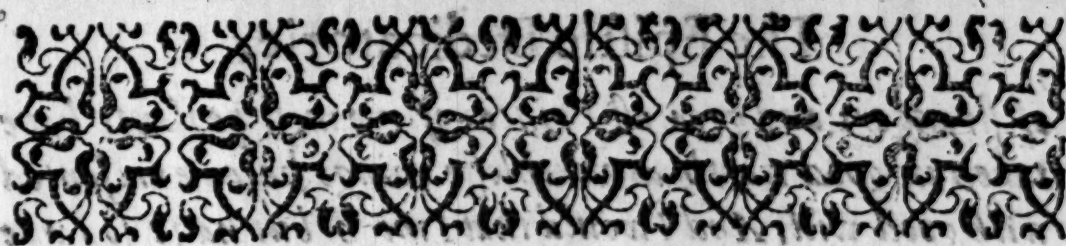
the design of the
the design of the

Designed and reported by A.D.

Designed and reported by A.D.



Printed at the
at the
near the



To my deare friend,

Master Thomas White of Corffe
in Dorsetshire.

THough in the spring-time of our
lines yeare, there bee no depth nor
durance of resolution, because sound
iudgement our reasons ripenes, is then
but in the budde; yet the affection
which I beare you, whereto your owne
hopefull forwardnesse did first giue
life, and your many courtesies adde strength, albeit it were
the childe of my childhood, conceived wherewe both recei-
ued the first grounds of learning, was even then so deeply
rooted, that neither length of time, distance of plase, nor
discontents of minde, haue bene able, I will not say to abo-
lish, but to diminish it: for an instance whereof, I haue en-
tituled to your name this naked humor, a Present not so wor-
thy as I would, or as perhaps I could afford if some clouds
were cleared: Yet howsoeuer this ~~toy~~ may prooue, I pre-
sume of your acceptance, both in regard of that affection
that (I hope) you still doe beare me, which may impetrate a
toleration where no liking may bee looked for: or of that
well-meanning wherewith I offer it vnto you, sith strangers

The Epistle Dedicatorie,

of strangers, and greatest Princes of meanest peasants have taken in good worth as worthlesse things, because presented with good will. And I would that I might but ha'ue so farre prouaile with others, of whome some (I feare) will not onely charge me with that which iustly they may, but also after the reading of my title and Proemium, deeme me one of those against whome Horace doth well exclaime, O imitatores seruum pecus, yet I protest that neuer anything was further from my thoughts, and that the rest was finished before that humor was suggested. But I should grossely offend in troubling you with a long Epistle, whome I trouble with so long a toy. I will therefore conclude with this conditionall promise, wherein I ioyne with you the courteous Reader, whose patience I urge too much with my yowthes follies, that if my life be capable of riper yeeres, and my state of better fortune, my labours shall not be wholly barren of descent: till when, and euer I rest,

Yours assured,

John Dickenson.



An aduertisement to the Reader.



Hen night (friend to melancholly) had runne the third part of her course, besprinkling the drowfie earth with *Lethe*s dew, I sitting solitary in my chamber, reading with some pleasure *Lucians Timon*, on a sodaine felt mine eies heauie, and immediately all my powers were violently surpris'd by a slumber; wherinto I was no sooner entred, then me thought I saw standing before me, the shape of a well-proportioned man suited in deaths livery, who seemed to write as fast as I could read. This gastly object did much astonish me, and (as fancie in such cases is a fruitfull nource of superstitious feares) my amazement was the greater: being thus taken in the reading of that Authour, who, besides his other impieties, is the greatest scoffer of apparitions. But when I had well noted the others mild countenance, my courage did soone recall it selfe, and I growing somewhat bold, demanded both who he was, and why he came: whereto hee gently answered thus I am hee, whose pen was first employed in the advancement of vanitie, and afterward in the discovering of villanie. Ioyne these two, and they will serue thee for the *Periplus* of my name. In the former of which, I confesse I haue offended, yet who knoweth not, that Fiction the god-mother of Poësie makes her the shadow of Philosophie; which if not sweetned by this heavenly mixture, may well haue reuerence, but small regard. This moued the Poet to write, and me to vse for my familiar motto that quent verse, *Omne tulit purctum, qui misuit utile dulci*. But admit it as the most will haue it, yet dare I boldly affirme, that my later labours haue made a large part of amends for thote former vanities. Here (me thought) I could no longer containe my selfe f. o going to imbrace him, as both reason and humanitie required.

Sed frustra compensa manus effugit imago

Par leuibus ventis oluer quasimillima somno.

Whereat beeing no lesse amazed then before, and casting backe mine eies, I espied him standing in like order at the other end of the chamber, whē with a criticall smile he thus proceeded: Hast thou tost ouer so many Authours, & knowest not yet that ghostes are shadows? But to omit this which I impute to thine astonishment, and to answer the other part of thy demand, first, for thy better conceiting of my intent, know, that it is my wont to walke much from *Elysium* towards the mouth of *Oron*, the cause whereof is this: *Diogenes*, *Menippus*, & all the ancient Cynicks, with as many of our moderne humorists as haue jumpr with them in their sure raine, do mightily frequent that place, who though of seuerall countries and times, yet are so thoroughly acquainted ech with other, as if they had liued all together. Their order is, when any ghosts arise, to run presently vnto them, peere in their

To the Reader.

faces and boord them curiously with a question touching their estates and fortunes while they liued: if they gather by their answeres that any of them haue florished in the world for pompe, wealth, beauty, or what focuer other like transitory gift, & that therein they haue reposed their sole delight, oh then they soundly frumpe and baite them for their welcome with such bitter scoffes, that this new corrosiue added to their other yet-bleding sorrowe, makes them altogether impatient: but if they finde that their liues greatest part hath beene distressed and care, then they comfort them, bidding them reioyce in death. Marry this their comfort serues to small purpose, for I haue heard the chiefe Seniors of this societie oft solemnly protest, that for I know not how many hundred yeares, not three of all those wretches (though the number hath bene infinite) haue thanked them for their comfort: but all bitterly exclaimed on death, and wished themselves againe aliue, with thrice as many miseries as they had endured: yet many of them dyed so olde, that their sighte, their tast, and generally all their senses and powers had of themselves failed them; so that the weaknes of their spent nature could no longer haue bin capable of any pleasure: others so poor, that for pure pēury & no deuotiō, they had failed to death: some so grieued with Aches that they had long laine bedridden, or so peppered with diseases, that in many yeares they could reckon few daies of rest: some had beene rotted in prison, some newskipt from the gallowes; others blinde, many cripples, all miserable, which caused me deeply to meruaile what secret deceipt of nature made men thus dote on life. *Sed ad propositum.* walking there not long since, while these storesaide odde companions were questioning with other ghosts, I saw one (& it was a womans Ghost) pacing demurely, and with so sealed a countenance, that as it argued no ioy, so it made shewe of little sorrow. Wondering at such moderation in so fraile a sexe, I went towards hir, and in going eyed hir so exactly, that in the end, though death had much defaced her, I knew who she was, and remembered that when I dyed, she liued at London in flourishing estate & as lewde a dame, as any in that Citye. This much increased my former admiration, who demde it rare, that any of that sexe, wealth, and wantonneffe could with such patience brooke the losse of life. Being in this humor I discovered my selfe vnto her, and earnestly requested her to shew me the cause of this her more then manly courage: whereto she gently replied, that since my death her fortune charged by hir folly had quited the former plenty & pleasures that she had while she enjoyed, with a farre greater measure of want and woe; and for she saw mee extremely desirous to heare the maner of this change and sequell, shee imparted that likewise vnto mee, concluding that since death had ridde hir from distresse, it were madnesse to lament, much more to desire life. this saide, shee lesse mee in a strange humor: for I wished my selfe aliue againe, were it but for two daies.

Laugh-

To the Reader.

Laughst thou? So mightest thou well haue done, if this my wish had beene the Ape of common error: but the onely ayme and end of my desire, was the good of those that liue; for whose admonition, euen in so small a time (for my witte was neuer long in performing such a taske) I would haue pende in maner of a caueat, a large discourse both of hir former lewdnesse which my selfe had knowne, and of her following miseries which she had then related. But finding my desires full accomplishment herein impossible, after long thought I conceipted a likely course, for the effecting thereof in parte; and this it was: To sue to *Mercury* that by the vertue of his charming rodde *quæ manes euocat arca*, this my bodies bloudlesse remnant might reuise the earth, to finde some one who receiuing frō mee the plot and groundworke of this rare subiect, might performe thereon in my behalfe, that which by reason of deaths defects my selfe now can not. In this resolution I gaue long attendance, before the leysure of that busie God, (which as thou knowest is heauens Herald, and hels carrier,) did afford me any opportunity: But in the end hauing purchased access and audience, I preuaile so farre with him, that either for his good opinion of my intent, or for the loue he beares vnto Poetry wherein himselfe, as he is the God of eloquence, hath no small interest, hee fully graunted my desire, but with this *promise*, that I should dispatch within an houre, by which time he will haue readye a fresh *conuoy* of ghosts for his returne. To be short; I was with a tryce in sight of London, whether running for ioy in headlong halt as the way ledde mee, I haue by chance lighted on thee, and thereby know that this subiect is referred for thy penne. Listen then to my relation. Heere he somewhat pawse: then with a deepe sigh sorrowes true preface, he began his sadde discourse therein comprising the seuerall branches that I haue handled: this done, hee thus concluded: Thou hast now hearde the summe of all, which I had once begunne to write, meting by good happe with penne, incke and paper on the way; but the shortnesse of my time warns me to resigne the office of my penne vnto my tongue. Suffice it that I despeire not of thy memory, nor doubt thy forwardnes. This only I will add; let the world know it comes frō me, that they who since my death haue vnkindly blamd me, may henceforth censure more charitably of me. Hereto (me thought) I thus replyed: The charge that thou imposest, is (I feare) greater then I can well discharge: for neither the nature of my veine is like to thine, neither is it *in suo genere* so sufficient. Besides none will beleue this, but rather deem it a blinde deuise of mine to begge a title for my booke, & to picke vp some crummes of credit from anothers table. Some againe will charge me, that I haue stolne this concept out of *Lucian*. And many maruaile, that I who haue a while forborn the presse (saue only in some sleight translations of general

To the Readers.

rall nouelties) because iustly fearing the ouer deep & piercing censures
 of this iudiciall age, should now in so bold an humor grow thus confi-
 dent. Lastly there are sundry others both better known to thee and of
 far more sufficiencie. Tush (quoth he) thou art too scrupulous; this is
 not modesty, but mopishnesse: leaning therefore these vaine excuses, per-
 forme what I request: and thereto I comure thee by the reuerence thou
 bear'st vnto the sacred Muses. Well (quoth I) sith thou hast so deepe-
 ly charged mee, I will performe it, and doe thou likewise in requitall
 graunt mee one demaunde, that I will make. I meane; nay (quoth
 hee) I know thy meaning and the humor that boyles now in thy braines,
 but I dare not play the blab againe: for who would willingly fry in Phle-
 geton? Besides, the time doth fly and the power of *Mercurius caduceus*
 crawes me hence, farewell and faile not in thy promise: with these words
 mee thought he vanished, leaving mee extremely discontented; for I
 had ready a mint of questions. As first, how each hagge and tiend doth
 take his place, when they are summoned to any assembly, *Al ramo suon-*
de: a tatarrea tromba. How *cerberus* in these late yeares of dearth
 hath shifted for his diet, coming so oft short of his fee: for it is vn-
 likly that they which being alive could not get theselues a dry crust, but
 stierued miserably, for want of foode, can after death be able to giue him
 a suppe: Whether the greedy Corne-hoorders be not generally cursed,
 euen there also, for pluming so the silly ghosts before hand, that when
 they come thither they are not able to discharge the duties of the
 house, viz. to the Ferriman, the porter &c. VWhether *Charon* doe still
 cry out against gonnes for determining the fortune of battailes before
 they come to hand-strokes, and thereby cutting of the best part of his
 doings; whether *Democritus* do laugh still, & whether it be true that *He-*
raclitus who while he liued, wept for the vanities of men, do now laugh
 at himselfe for hauing beene so foolish; whether it be likewise true that
Arctine hangs by the tongue for hauing blab'd abroad the secrets of
 dame Lecheries dearlings, what monsters were brought forth of late, &
 which of the olde hags, are most in fauour with *Hecate*. These & infinite
 other demands I would haue made, had not his sodaine vanishing pre-
 uented me; whereat in a rage I clapt my hand on the table and there-
 with did awake, hauing my braines so set on worke by this strange slum-
 ber, that I could sleepe no more all that night. The next morning, the
 plot being fresh in my memory, I went in hand with it, proceeding ther-
 in at times of leasure till I had finished it, which (Gentlemen) I now pre-
 sent vnto your fauours the onely wished harbor wherein this my weather
 bearen vessell may rest safely shrowded from the tempest of disgrace.

Besides sundry scapes of the Presse in Orthography, and some more
 extraordinary of whole wordes mistaken, though in the fewest coppies;
 these foure are generall: secrets for sorrowes. p. 18. these, for those, p. 20.
 intent, for content. p. 21. deen' for doom'd. p. 27.



GREENE IN CONCEIPT:

New raised from his graue, to write the
Tragique storie of faire Valeria
of London.



Facefraught with plentie, waiting on
the Scepter of a gracious Soueraigne,
had nowe seated her selfe in Albion,
whence at her ariual, rough-fac'd Bel-
lona the nurse of boyles, writing in
blood, her bailefull tryumphes, fledde
disconsolate to foraine coasts, and there
sounded hir Tragique summons. At
whose departure all things recovered their former quiet:
As when the yeare haueing shaken of stormie winters Ice
badge, growes young againe, greeting the earth with
gladsome tiouings of the Flower-clad springes approach.
Sillie Sheepeherdes haunted securely with their harme-
lesse flockes, the western plaines, chanting by turnes
sweete Roundelapes, or trying with long play their Pa-
ten pipes: Toyling husbandmen ioyde freely in the
issue of their hopes, reaping harvests plenty the guerdon
of their winters paines. Each season had his successe, each
state his solace. In which tranquillitie of time and truce
of fortune, their liued in the famous citie of Troinouant
an ancient gentleman, sonne to a wealthie Citizen, who
dying oulde, lefte him not younge, his onely childe, sole
heire of his goodes, which, (besides money & other moue-
ables

ables) yealbed him an ample reuenuē of yearely rents. Giraldo, (so was he named) hauing enough, deemed it follye to toyle for superfluous store, or not to vse, what his Ancestors successfull industrie had already afforded him.

Hee therefore conformed his life to such a course, as might equall his calling, and not Impaire his credit, or procure his discontent. Liuing thus at quiet (the more to Augment his ease,) loue he esteemed so little, and marriage lesse, that he passed y^e most part of his time without a wife, in which Stoicall humo^r he determined to persiste, stiffely refusing many great offers, mou'd to him by sundrye of good account and knowae sufficiency; whether the care of housekeeping and feare to match with a mate of vnlike conditions, had dismayde him; or the sweetenesse of a single life throug^h long vse befotted him; Howsoeuer this resolution seemd easie in regard of his yeares, yet did the sequell largely shewe, that no time, no temperatue is exempted from loues tyranny; noz ought lesse to be trusted, then affections tryall: The Sunne ofte shines not, til nere his setting, Cinthia filles not her circle, til fardest from his brothers Sphere. Smothered Cinders may breed a flame, wherewe least suspect a fire; and winter fruites in growth lesse forwarde, are in lasting most forceable. The purest goulde hath his dross; the clearest Wine his dregges; Sweetest Roses their prickles; lowrest Stoickes their passions. Loue hath his change of Arrowes, his choyce of obiectes, to intice every eye, to intangle every Age.

It chanced in a fatall ho^uer, that Giraldo with sundry his familiars was inuited by a gentleman of the country (his dead Fathers approued friende) to accompanie him home, & passe with him some daies of pleasure at his howse, situate in a gallant soyle fruitfull of all delights. They agreeing to his friendly motion, lefte the Citie, and arriuing where he dwelt, found there such entertainment, as might assure their welcome, and warrant his good will.

will: They were richly feasted, and frolickt royally in all gentlemanlike disportes, hunting, hauking, with what soeuer pleasant recreation their thoughts could ayme at, and the countrey yealde. Thus farre lasted Giraldos comedie: but heere (though in a borrowed hue) slept in his Tragedies sad Poem masking his following sorrows in outward semblance of a luring sweetnesse: Such are the wiles of loue and fortune, there first to smile, where they intend last and most to lower. This gentleman besides two sonnes of rare towardnesse, had one daughter, hir name Valeria, young and fayre, in discourse wittie, but in life wanton; the fault and cause thereof, her education: for being the fathers toy the Mothers Jewell, their last bozne, and therefore most beloved, she was trained by her parents in all libertie, and taught, not that which best becomed, but which most delighted hir; In steade of sowing, shee could sing, write, daunce, and sweetly touch hir Ivory Lute, with whose weltoned stringes, hir fingers were more acquainted, then with hir needle: Briefely what could shee not, which least she should, and all more exquisitely, then was meete for a modest virgine? If then the strongest Parble bee in time worne by weake droppes of raine, the hardest Adamant, (though otherwise impetrable) pearce by Goats warme blood: what maruel is it, that these so mightie inforcements, wrought so effectually on hir, whose few pears, fraile sex, and sleight education made the conquest easie? Yet ran he headlong forward, not heeding howe he was inclined, nor weighing as he should haue done, the issue of his attempt, which these so many, and so manifest likelihoodes did foretellen: Such was his blindness enen when he first behelde her, to whom nature had leut a looke so alluring, a tongue so inchanting, that it restes doubtfull, whether hir countenance could more intrappe, or hir wordes entangle. To those that neuer sawe the Ocean, narrow straights may seeme large

seas: he which till now had neuer view'd with curious re-
 garde, any such besotting object, demed Valeria the west-
 erne prragon. His greedy euer gazing eyes, fed like hungry
 Guestes en hir faces beautie, yet neuer glutted; for the
 more he looked, the more he looued; Affection was no
 sooner bred, then wing'd; no soner warme, then flaming;
 (a thing in nature maruelous, but in loue no miracle,) she
 was the onely subiect of his conceipt, the onely ayne of his
 content: If she spake, his partiall eares deem'd hir voice
 more then Angelicall; if she smil'd, he was raiisht: if shee
 frown'd, euen frowning shee seem'd fairer, and hir anger
 amiable. Thus were hir wordes his eares musique, her
 faire countenance his eyes harbor, hir selfe, his transported
 sowles supposed solace, while he though old, yet a Nouice
 in the schole of fancie fed his vaine thoughtes, with vainer
 hopes: But when beginning his wooing with signes, he
 sawe portraide on hir lookes, a deepe misliking of his age,
 threathing a sequell of many sorowes, a Centurie of sowl-
 tyring passions, then somewhat rowling his charm'd sen-
 ces, he began sadly to conferre his former course of life,
 with his present crosses in loue, weighing howe befoze he
 ioy'd in content, nowe ioylesse through discontent, then
 free from fancie, now slaue to beautie: And so farre he wa-
 ved in this pensive meditation, that sealing with manye
 sighes, each clawse of his complaints, he wished too late,
 than he had not come, or comming, had not seene; or seeing,
 had not affected; or affecting, had not so extreamply do-
 ted. But finding moue a bootlesse methode, a sleight me-
 dicine to cure harts maladye, he resolved to seeke some su-
 rer remedie: which, (as he thought) was immediatly to
 depart; hoping that absence should worke his ease, and that
 his eyes not hauing whereon to gaze, his thoughtes should
 want wherewith to greene him.

In the heat of which humoz, he abruptly tooke his leaue
 of the gentleman his friend, and the other his familiars, sei-
 ning

ning sodaine and extraordinary occasions of busines, which
 drew him thence. They no lesse beleening his wordes,
 then loath to hinder his waightie affaires, did not importune
 his tariance, yet urged with much entreatie his speedy re-
 tozne, which he promising, though then not intending,
 lefte them; but could not leaue so his sorrowe, for in him
 selfe he caried his owne wounde, the ever-fresh and perfect
 Idea of Valerias farre peircing beautie, a more inseperable
 companion to his thoughts, then the shadowe to his bodye:
 the one waiting without, the other working so forceably
 within, that by how much the more he strove to alay
 his passions, by so much the more hee encreased his
 paines: concluding by his owne experience, that to attempt
 the quenching of loue with absence, is to cherish fire with
 oyle. For as the coule of a stronge currant, countercheke
 by a barre of earth, seekes with greater violence another
 issue, and hanning past his boundes, toynes the pleasant
 meadows, into vnplesant marishes: As the slowest flame,
 somewhat daunted by water, gathers immediatly double
 force and brightnesse: so the frenzie of a louters fancie, is
 then most outragious, and feeles greatest lacke of wanted
 ease, when the eyes do want their wanted object. Girald-
 do therefore finding in the citie lesse comfort then in the
 contrye content, wandered in this labyrinth of woe, fee-
 ling his soules agonie howerly augmented: In the daie,
 he could not rest; in the night, he could not sleepe; if he sat,
 he sighed; but sighes yealved him no solace: ofce he walk-
 ed to ont weare his sorrowe, but oft walking could not
 worke it: At the table he sat a cypher; nor is it maruel,
 for how could he haue any stomacke to disgest his meat
 that wanted strength to disband his melancholie, which
 was so frutefull in afflicting him, that not Hydra, foggie
 Lernas fowleguest, could faster renewe his seauen heades,
 with seauenfoulde encrease, then his each-passion doubled
 his perplexitie, making his vnquiet life, the perfect map

of a louers miserie : His friendes and neighbours murthered much what might be the cause of his discontent, supposing nothing lesse, then that loue had bene the occasion.

Among this number, one of like yeares & long acquaintance, did on a time so farre importune him, that Geraldo (though loath to utter his affection, yet able to denie him nothing, because he lou'd him dearly) discoursed the whole at large, peremptorily concluding to hast with all speede possible (if his speeding might bee possible) a marriage betweene Valeria and himselfe: For (quoth hee) as Telephus wounded by Achilles speare, could not be cured but by the rust of the same speare: And they which are stung by the Serpent Dipsas, feelee an vnquenchable thirst in the midst of water: so standes it with me, which haue surfeted, yet am not satiate; but being wounded with Telephus, must likewise with him deriue my helpe; whence I receiued my hurt, which word he had no soner vttered; then his amazed friend deeming this humor in those yeares, the eight miracle; aduerted himselfe to diuert him from so sonde a thought, and after some pause began thus: Were I as wise, as I am willing to discharge the duty of a friende, then would I with mightie Arguments dissuade you from a purpose so ill be-seeming: Can it be y^e Geraldo so stale a batcheler, so strict a follower of the Stoicks philosophie, is in the wain of his age become a woer? He which laugheth at loue, and scornd fancy, nowe droupe for loue, and dote through folly: resembling in repugnance to nature, the stone Gagates, whereon if water be powred it kindles fyr, if oyle, it doth quench the flame: Two things I haue noted in many, and finde both in you: the first rare and commendable, the second ridiculous, yet common: A young man wise, an old man wanton. Weigh yet with your selfe, what your friends will say, and the worlde censure, hearing of this sodaine change: If marriage be a course so requisite, they will demaunde why you haue so long deferred it; if not to be

be respected, why you shoulde nowe determine it? And w
 you not that lone in olde men is no lesse vnseemely and
 vnseasonable, then frost in Aprill, snowe in Sommer,
 Ice in the entering of Autumne? But admit it necessary,
 yet this hast is needlesse: Rash beginnings haue cruel ends:
 ripe counsailes right successe. The Elephant breeds not
 oft in age. The Phenix (as some affirme) takes life from
 Ashes, but once in fire hundred and sixtie yeares: the one
 how mightie a beast? the other how matchlesse a bird?
 In Samos stood a Temple of Hymen, ouer whose doze,
 on the outside, was set the portrature of a Snayle, to
 admonishe the beholders, that with slowe pace and deepe
 aduice they shoulde proceede to a matter of such waight,
 importing their extraordinary weale or woe. Apelles
 drawing the picture of Folly, gaue hir winges, but not
 eyes; hir eares stoppt, thereby intimating, that londe men
 runne headlong forwarde, not seeing what they do, nor hea-
 ring others, which fortell them, the issue of their vnhed-
 full actions. It grieues me Geraldo to thinke, that fondly
 gazing on fayre lookes, which do commonly shroud false
 hearts, you are taken in beauties trappe, entangled like y
 fishe, which leaping at the Sunne beames, gilding the
 waues, playes therewith, untill the net haue made him pri-
 soner. Had you fancied some modest Patron, not for beauty
 a fading blisse; but for vertue a lasting value, your hast had
 bene yet more hopefull; nor might any iustly haue accused
 your abstinence in youth, or your affection in age. But at
 these yeares, when the prime of fancy is past, to be won by a
 wanton glance, to vote on a silly Gerle, whose continence
 or constancy you know not, how farre vnsit? The Cretans
 had a lawe made by Minos their iust King, that if a
 youngman matcht with an olde woman, or an olde man
 wedded a young mayde, they both shoulde forget whatsoeuer
 they possessed, and the elder of either sexe so offending,
 lose the reuerence due to their age. Well saue her, that

true affection could finde no residence, where the desire^s
 were so different; the one ayming wholly at youths delights,
 the other dull to wonted dalliance, whence followes breach
 of wedlocke. What is your Valeria that you so dote on
 hir? say you shee is young? then wauering: grauitie is
 seldome in greene yeares. But were shee well enclin'd,
 yet might ill companie corrupt hir: Carely buddes are
 soone blasted; young sprigs do with the winde bende
 euery way. The flower-rich spring is natures first borne,
 but not heire of Autumnes ripenesse. Say you she is faire?
 then proude, for as the herbe Fesula taken in wine, causeth
 the vaines to swell: so beautie in women doth enhance the
 thoughtes. I omitte to inferre hir store of fauorites, which
 will not faile to seduce hir, if coyne or counsaile may sub-
 due hir. Is she wittie? then witle; fraught still with new
 deuices to circumuent you. But shee can daunce, singe,
 finger a Lute, and all excellently: doe not these argue hir
 wanton education, or can you for these so highly fancie hir?
 then what other instance neede I saue your selfe, to prouue
 that loue is blinde? Loue, which hath the power of Lethe
 to induce obliuion, the windinges of a Labyrinth to en-
 trappe the minde, the shape transforming iuce of Circes
 inchanting cuppes, to change thoughtes, as shee could al-
 ter bodie: Loue which for a minute of pleasure, yealdes a
 million of paines; for a dramme of Hunny, an ounce of gall,
 resembling that tree in America, whose Apples are to the
 sight exceeding faire but to the tast, deathes foode. Cease
 then betimes friende Giraldo, least you repent to late, and
 sigh in vaine, to thinke on my sayings, when your supposed
 ioyes shalbe smothered in surmising Ielousie. There is for
 euery soze prouided a salue, yet no simple for hartes sorrow:
 But as the baytre alone is neuer hurt by lightning, so wis-
 dome euer vnkain'd by wantonnesse, which is in you the
 ground of that woe. Against popsons we haue preserua-
 tiues: Stozme-beaten seamen, wrestling with the furies
 of

of windes and waters, ioy in the sight of Leda's twinnes: but thought sicke louers haue onely reason their soueraigne refuge: deuine reason the sole phisicke to cure loues follie, which strates from it so farre, that where the one raignes, the other cannot rest: For Amare & sapere vix deo conceditur.

Where he patw'd and Geraldo thus replide: your counsaile sauiours much of good will, little of conceipt: yet for your curtesie I thanke you, and for your kindnesse, I wil think of you, as of a well intending friend. You decime it strange that I thus olde, (though not so olde as you vrge) should now resoluē on mariage, haueing before shaped a contrary course of life. True it is, that whilome my sole delight was to liue single, but who knowes not, that old opinions are ofte concealed by new occasions? Must I be euer ill aduised, because once not well aduertised? Is loue in olde men so vnseasonable, in youth onely, (y^e at all) commendable? or rather as the herbe Moly tempered with newe wine doth much distemper the braines, and infeeble the whole bodie; the same mingled with olde wine, doth soner effect the contrary, and releue the ouercharged senses: So is affection in greene yeares full of perils, vrging young-men to extremes, which cannot moderate their passions; but in riper yeares doth cheer the thoughts, glad the hart, awake the senses halfe dul and drooping. Admit the wants, the weakenesse, and whatsoeuer disabling defects incident to age. Tell mee (I pray you) who more needes comfort then they which want it; or what greater comforte to men then kinde women? How can you then with reason deny that to age; which doth ease the toylfull burthen of age, or terme that needlesse, which is so necessarie, but you growing to farther dislikes, condemne myne haste, which resoluē with speede to dispatch my purpose, know you not that delay is fraught with daungers, that occasion is balde behinde: that they which deferre, are ofte

prevented, and so circumvented: Such as obserue not
 there times, do iustly faile in there deserued tryalles. On
 the lillie-garnisht bankes of Cephissus there springes a flo-
 wer of rare effectes, yet merely forcelesse, if not applide
 at the instant, when Phebus doth in fiery maiesty touch
 the meridian. In like sort, young virgines fancies, prone
 to affection by yeares and nature, must be assailed while
 time both serue: for their fauour once rooted (a thinge
 easily performed) can neuer bee recalled by threats of
 parents, or wordes of professors. Speaking then be-
 times, I may perhaps speede: but deferring the one, I must
 dispaire of the other. Good wine needes no Iuic bush:
 Faier women want no woers. hereto you reply that you
 condemne not so much my age as Valerias youth: to haue wo-
 ed and wedded an auncient woman, had bene a match more
 meet: and this equalitie of yeares, caried more likelyhood
 of mutuall loue. For answere to which obiection, I craue
 no greater instance then your owne experience, y^e widowes
 are wily and wilfull; that many scarce holsonie mozels, do
 often vlturpe the attyre and gestures of honell matrons: heer
 is a Lerna of euils, a sea of dangers; which to encounter, I
 haue no courage: to conquer, no fortune: But in one yet
 neuer matched, how can deceipt be settled, or how is
 shee acquainted with wiles, which thoroughly knowes
 not the world? That Valeria is young, I yealde, nor
 am I very old: but you will say that though a while I
 may entertaine hir with delight, yet I shalbe past beget-
 ting, when she is in the prime of bearing: hereon you vrg-
 e, that giftes and pleasures are mighty tempters, women
 and they young, fraile vesselles, and therefore weake re-
 sistors. Yet doubt not I, that with a gentle minde,
 the knowne kindnesse of a louing husband, shall more
 preuaile, then the doubtfull counsailes of deluding stran-
 gers. That shee is fayer, I graunt also; that there-
 fore proude, I deny. It suffiseth not with Ouid
 to

to say partially, *fastus inest pulchris, sequiturque superbia formam*, vnlesse you learne of Aristotle to proue the consequence, by a strong coherence: It followes not that all are faultie, because some offend: but rather as the birde Rintaces bred in Persia, liueing by ayre and deawe onely, hath no excrements: so natures perfections polished by vertuous education, brooke no excelle.

For where shoulde inwarde graces be more resident, then where outwarde giftes are most resplendent? That shee is Wittye, in discourse, expert in dauncing, singing, and well fingering of a Lute, I confesse: that therefore wilpe, or more apt for wantonnesse, I may in no sort graunt. The best things may be wrested to bad vses: Such recreations not misintended, hinder melancholy, and hurt not modesty. Thus haue I answered what you objected, shewing reason the ground of my affection. Say then my friendes what they list, censure the world what it will, I am resolute to attempt, noz doubt I to attaine that, for which my soule doth long, and my heart languish. Stoicks are stockes; sencelesse teachers that publish their owne follies, by denying that to wise men which the sences worke in all men. Till now I knewe not what it was to liue, because I felt not the power of loue. Haue not Planets their coniunctions the elements their mixtures, both their cooperant motions, which argue that nothing can be of it selfe sufficient? Say that sicknesse shoulde enfeeble me, who coulde so kindly comfort me, or would so willingly attende mee, as a louing wife: which would sit by me, sigh for mee, share with me my sorrowes, and vse all meanes to procure my safety? If death shoulde seaze on mee vniuelesse as I am, and childelesse, leauing my goodes to vnkinde, or vnkowne heires, with what discontent shoulde

I breathe out my drooping spirit? But to your selfe I appeale, which haue in part experemented this facilitie, what ioye it were, euen in death, to behoulde, the fruite of my owne bodie, the continuer of my name, liueing to possesse what I leaue: knowe you not that beastes voide of reason doe perperetuate, their seuerall kindes by procreation? and shall men enriched by reason, be herein exceeded by beastes? if all were such as you counsaile mee to continue, where were the hope of posteritie? And that taken away, where the spurre of vertue? deserts guerdon, the taske of fame, sounding to succeeding times true honours trophes in euerliuing notes? I omit to alledge, that nature, and my countrye claime mariage of me as a debt: The Spartans among other lawes made by Licurgus, had this one, that the younger sorte should at all times and in all places, reuerence there elders: But to those of great Age wanting yssue, this preueledg was not due: So that Brasidas a valient chiefetaine neuer married, laden with many yeares, but honored through more victozies, passing by a young man, which sat still, not vsing to haue any shewe of reuerence, by mouing his bodie, or his bonnet, and deeming it a great indignitie, receiued this answer: Thou hast not quoth he a sonne which may doe the like to me, if liuing to thy age. But whether runne I, in so large a fielde of mightie reasons, warranting my resolution beyond all compasse of contradiction? Sith then to marry it is not onely seemely for any, but likewise necessary for all: in disswading mee from it, you highly iniury mee. That I haue hetherto abstained, it was my fault; To persist in like humoz, were deeper folly, Better is little, then nothing; late then neuer; not to bee, then in vaine to bee. Nascitur is frustra, per quem non nascitur alter. Hauing thus said and fearing to pee vrged with a fresh reply, he brake of there conference, by a feined occasion of businesse, leauing his well wishing friende

friende in a deepe amalement, no lesse petying his daunger,
 then wondering at his detage. But no soner had Aurora in
 her next vprise mopt'nd with her earely teares, transfor-
 m'd Adonis, and cherisht the forward springing of other
 flowers, then Giraldo mounting on his horse, gallopt on
 the spurre in that glad some season of the yeare, toward his
 harts wished harbor, where Valeria, (whom leauing, he so
 languished,) made hir residence: By whose father (his a-
 sured friend) he there alighting, was by so much the more
 louingly welcomed, by how much the lesse, his coming
 was then lookt for, which yealded in outwarde shewe, no
 other likelihoode of coniecture, but to be a bare iourney of
 recreation: till he impatient of all delay did fully (though
 in fewe wordes,) deliuer the soomme of his desire, which
 was to espouse Valeria; whereto the soner to induce hir fa-
 ther, to whom onely he now communicated his affectionous
 secrets, he promised to make hir a large toynter, craue-
 ing of him no other dowery, then what himselfe would wil-
 lingly assigne. Theodoro (such was the others name) haue-
 ing much vled the father, and long knowne the sonne; of
 whose vertue, (besides his breath,) he was no lesse cer-
 taine, then of his wealth assured: and perhappes somewhat
 mou'd by the voluntary offer of so large a toynter: yealded
 him his full consent: promising moreouer, to worke herein
 so effectually with his daughter, (adding to his wordes the
 weight of a fathers authority) that shee likewise, whom it
 most concerned, should grant his demaunde, or deny hir due-
 ty: Which promise he faild not to performe, moueing the
 matter to Valeria in such sort, that the wily gerle which
 could by little gather much, and by a sillable conceiue a
 sentence, was nothing ignorant of his entent herein,
 whom fearing to displease, & hoping by this match to raign
 as Mistresse of all (for well she knew the myldnesse of
 Geraldos nature) though at the first for fashions sake
 somewhat sticking at his age, concluded hir answer with
 the

the offer of her obedience, in yeelding her selfe wholly to her fathers disposing. To bee shorte, Giraldo and shee were solemnly contracted, Valerias dowrie assigned, her ioynter set downe, all things confirmed, and they soone after openly espoused. Now seemed hee to himselfe infinitely happie, solacing in an earthly heauen of imaginarie iopes, a Paradise of thought-exceeding pleasures. But between seeming and beeing, there hath euer beene a large difference: Cadmus seemed happie, but his liues sequell dasht his felicities vaine flourish with a Chiliade of crosse Fortunes. Ante obitum nemo supremaque funera scelix. Had great Pompey with his third triumph finished his then-victorious life, hee had not famous de Pharsalia through his foile, nor made Egypt fatall through his fall. Had Giraldo beene extinct in this the prime of his seeming happinesse, hee had not afterwarde dyed most happelisse. But to proceed, the Nuptials beeing ended, and Giraldo on his returne vnto the Citie (whither hee purposed to take with him his beauteous Bride) at the instant of their departure, Theodoro (whose misgiuing heart did make him heauie) taking aside his daughter, thus grauely bespake her,

Valeria, thou now must leaue mee, and learne withall another course of life then thou hast ledde with mee: thou must with thy estate change thy thoughtes, no lesse earnestly nowe endeavouring to please thy husband, then earst warily shunning to displease thy father. Oh let it not be saide of thee, which is too truely saide of many, That liuing vnder their parents awe, they make shewe of admirable vertue, but beeing exempted from that obedience, they vnmakke their abhorred vices, resembling in this change the Corall, which growing vnder the water, is of exceeding softnesse; but taking once the Aire, takes therewith a stone-like hardnesse. These may to their shame learne duetye of sillie creatures wanting reason.

son. Young Storckes feede their olde dammes, which
 elle should famish: The Turtle hauing lost her mate
 by death, ioyes not in the companie of any other. So,
 in the one a pcept of pietie to the parents; in the other,
 a myrrour of loue and loyaltie towards the husband. And
 thinke withall, that naked beautie not adozned by ver-
 tue, is like the Tree Daphnoides, whose leaues are
 white, but the berries being ripe, are blacke. Presume
 not then on the fairenesse wherewith G D hath suffi-
 ciently graced thee: that must fade, being onely the bo-
 dies gift: but if, while it flourish, it be ill applyed, what
 more is it then a painted tombe, a golden sheath closing a
 leaden Sword, or wherein is it more esteemed by the wise,
 then wisdom by the foolish; From the Countrey (a place
 of small resort) thou must now into the Cittie, where
 thou shalt finde sundry sortes of companie and customes,
 as in a large plot among wholesome hearbes, vnwholesome
 weedes: The wounded Hart flies to the Forrest, crop-
 ping Dictamnium to cure his hurt, knowing it by the smell
 among infinite other plantes. The little Bee (Natures
 great miracle) can sucke sweete Hony out of the most
 unlikely flowers. I coulde wish in thee such distingui-
 shing skill and knowledge, in discerning and vsing com-
 panie; no doubt I it, yet giue mee leaue euen without
 cause to feare, for therein likewise am I a father. All
 young Eagles can not steadfastly beholde the Sunne:
 All that seeme vertuous, are not so: whome though
 by their lookes thou canst not knowe, yet if for a tri-
 all thou temporize a while, the issue of their actions
 shall discouer them. Shunne these Valeria, least they
 shame thee: Ioyne acquaintance and vse familiaritie
 with them onely, whose company may aduance, or at least
 not impeach thy credite: And strue thou rather to
 merite this rare tytle of extraordinarie praise, that
 being

being young in yeares, thou art old in maners, then to be noted of this common imperfection, that thy maners are as thy years, light I meane, what more should I say then this only, that on the hope of thy behaviour, my life and ioyes depend: So that in thee it restes by thy well doing to cherish them, or by thy ill demeanour to cut them off: if thy entent be good, then may these words suffice, if other wise farre more should be to fewe. This said, he ofte kist hir, bedewing plentionssly hir faire cheekes with fathers teares; then committed hir to hir husbands gouernment, and both to the almighties guidance, thzough whose fauour, they with their traine, after some smale iorney ariued in safetie at Troinouant: Aske not whether Giraldo's friendes and neighbours mused to see him thus married: They were all in an extasie of admiration: but the roughest tempest is ouerblowne: the greatest wonder lastes but nine daies, and when the date of this was cleene expired, he not feeling the least scruple of discontent, liu'd in the pleasures of loue, seeking by all means to content his young wife, which hetherto rendered him like kindnes, whether hir thoughts were yet pure, buttill corrupted through bad company, or hir naturall humour of wantonnesse slept only, vntill awaked by ill counsaill, (a thing so common in our age:) she bare him some pretty children, a deper pledge of her yet-during loyalty: But alas it had to sleight a permanence, for no sooner were three yeares past, then this vaine flourish became fruitles, and she contemptuously neglecting or buzzing in carelesse oblivion, hir fathers counsaile, was thoroughly settled in forbidden acquaintance. Pitch if touched defiles, Bad company corrupts good conditions: warme wax is apt for any impression, greene thoughts soone led to any opinion, but most commonly to embrace the worst, for where vertue hath one affecter, vice hath many factors.

Among sundry of hir owne sex, with whom Valeria did
 ofte

oft conuerse, there was one which in wit and wickednesse
 did farre exceed. Shee thought it not enough her selfe to
 offend, vnlesse through her, others also became faultie.
 So that (as making a conscience of impietie) shee stroue
 more earnestly to seduce the simple, then many to reduce
 the sinfull: and shee had so cunningly demeaned her selfe,
 that Giraldos wife (circumuented by her ouer-reaching
 wiles) deemed her a deare friend, communicating with
 her the chiefeest of her thoughts. They had many mee-
 tings, especially at gossips feasts, where alwaies (the ban-
 ket beeing ended) while others held chat in common, they
 (somewhat withdrawing themselues) conferred in secret:
 and whereon soeuer they discoursed, this one point of her
 discontent, through daily feeling of more defect in her
 husbands declining yeares, was by Valeria sleightly tou-
 ched; yet so touched, that the other might well conceit her
 intent. Euen to be absolutely wicked, it requires time
 and vse. No maruaile then that shee hauing not yet ente-
 red into an habit of sinne, was not so wholly impudent as
 to expresse her meaning in plaine tearmes, though still ex-
 pecting when the other would take the occasion by her pre-
 sented. They oft met, oft talkt, and Giraldos wife woulde
 still harpe somewhat on that string: and hauing scarce be-
 gun, with a sleight sigh, abruptly ceasde. Now was the
 path well troden, and they meeting soone after in like
 place, on a day of great solemnitie, vnder like matter of
 discourse, with the same occasion againe offered. The other
 knowing her time, would not omit the aduantage, but ta-
 king firme holde thereof, thus whispered to Valeria a Si-
 rens tale. Should it then be thus, or haue I thus deser-
 ued, that languishing through want of solace, you conceale
 from mee your hidden secrets? I haue often heard, that for
 euery soze, Nature hath planted a simple; that against e-
 uerie sicknesse, Physicke hath possibilitie of expulsive
 force. But well I wot, that reason containes no remedie

for care and discontent, saue onely the companie and counsaile of a friend : such am I to you, and more I am, for your disease is to me knowen, though not by you disclosed: I know your youth, your husbands many peeres; your affection, his inclination; your desires, his defects; your losse of time, his abuse of time. This onely I feare, least your faint courage barre you from accomplishing what you most couet. But listen with attention to my discourse, setting light by such suggestions: What is beautie, the sweetnesse thereof not tasted? What more is it to those which hauing it, can not vse it, then to Tantalus the deceiuing fruit and food: what more is it to those which admiring it, can not enioy it, then musicke to the deafe, pictures to the blind, delicious meat vnto the dead? Beautie is no eternall blisse: but as the spring hath his date, so hath wee her durance limited by time: and (aye mee) too short a time. Sweetest flowers, if not gathered, wast or wither euen on the ground, whence they were cherished. These glories which now doe grace vs, must (if we liue) receiue the disgracious impression of wrinkled age: And therefore twice-rauisht Tindaris the wracke of Troy, long after her last recouerie, beholding in a glasse her aged face, did iustly sigh, witnessing in her teares, how transitorie a flourish her bodie late fairenesse did containe. To the Sunne, the measurer of time, Poets haue assignd a charriot drawn by foure winged horses; thereby intimating, that our liues daies possz on each minute with irremozable precipitacion. Time the father of Occasion, is (as his daughter) bald behinde, and hath one onely locke before, whereon vnlesse you speedily lay holde, you shall for euer misse your holde. But why doe I tearme it yours, which if not vled by you, can not be yours? Hereto you reply, that Giraldo is your husband, and you bound to him by the lawes of God and men. True it is, had you bound your selfe: but as enforced oathes are by many deemed meerely forcelesse, so compelled

compelled matches are not by fewe thought nothing so materiall, as where both parties yeelde a mutually free consent. Oh how preposterous is the care of parents, which aiming moze at goods then at their childzens good, weigh not on what rockes of danger through incontinencie and reproch they cast them whome they couple with those that abound in coine, though hauing nought else of worth: Farre moze nobly minded was Themistocles, which in bestowing his daughter, preferred the vertuous and able poore, before the sottish impotent rich: whereof being demanded the cause, he made this generous answer: I had rather (quoth hee) choose a man without mony, then money without a man: wherein doubtlesse, hee meant not onely, that he is worthe the name of a man which imbraceth vertue, but also that hee is not to be thought a man, which can not performe the act of a man where it iustly is required.

What can be moze vnnaturall, then such inequalities of peeres and inclination? which granted, howe (I pray you) can that be pleasing to God, which is so directly repugnant to the course of nature, whome hee at first created in most absolute perfection of proportionall regarde, and hath euer since, and will till the ende of this worldes times, preserve from confusion by vpholding this equalitye? Thinke you that Myrobolan Trees, brought from Sunne-scorcht Gula, can prosper, if planted in frozen Scythia: or that the Northern pride of Flora can diaper the Southerne fieldes? Would you deeme that gardiner skilfull, whome you should see setting Colewortes neare the vine, which shunneth them so much by nature, that it windes another way and soone doth wither? Can that match bee lesse vnnemeete, where greene youth is poakt with groning age? I haue hearde that Licurgus the Spartane Lawgiuer, did not ouely permitte, but commaund it (as a seruice much meritorious to

the Common-wealth) that a vigorous man knowing an able woman matcht with an husband impotent through yeares or some naturall defect, might lawfully demand and no lesse lawfully vse her companie to raise by issue in the others behalfe, which he must acknowledge as his own. Had Giraldo and you been Spartans, liuing in these times, then had you enioyed this pleasing priuiledge, your husband beeing now past procreation: and hee, if discontent, in vaine had muttered: who if hee would needes marrie, should haue wedded some ancient matrone, the widow of two or thre husbands, which might by custome knowe how to fitte the humour of his yeares, and brooke quietly the loathsome accidents of his age, by feeling in her selfe like insufficiencie, baiting his eares with counter-coughes, and presenting to his eyes like nastie obiects of filth and flegme. Breach of wedlocke had beene in her a crime in-
 expiable: but where the state and person of the offendour is changed, there likewise the qualitie of the offence is altered: nor can the crime bee so directly pertinent to you, (which being a child must obey) as to Theodoro, which (being your father) might and did command.

Be then couragious boldly to imitate the infinite examples of former times: nor are you now alone, which haue for presidents me, and such my friends, as seeke with mee abroad what is not afforded vs at home: If herein you consort with vs, you shall likewise share with vs your part of pleasures; you shall be furnisht with store of fauorites, ech of gallant & goodly personage, and (which most is) of rare agilitie in acting that secret sweet seruice, which wee most affect. This onely is required, that you remunerate with coine the authours of your intent, bolstring by with your bags their impouerishing braueries.

Here Valeria halfe weeping, halfe wishing her selfe betrothed, seemd doubtful wheron to resolute: but the other following her aduantage, gaue not ouer till she had assured y conquest.

quest. To be short, there was a time & place determined for entering Valeria into y^e order: meane while the whole crue was summoned, there to assemble at the day appointed, being likewise thoroughly acquainted with the cause. The meetest corner for this couent was thought a garden-house, hauing round about it many flowers, and within it much deflowring. Were not this age fruitfull in stranger miracles, I should haue deem'd this an high maruell, that so small a plot of ground, could be so deuouring a gulfe of some mens gettings: yet who knowes not that extortions fruite hath seldome fayrer ende? But I procede; the day presign'd being come, no default was through absence made by any: there met they with their mynions, each hauing stopt hir husbands mouth with a feined tale, coynd extempore, Valeria not slacke to such deuotion, came with the first, seeming to her selfe mostfortunate, in becoming a sister of that society: They had there a costly banquet made at their common charge, so fraught with dainties, so furnisht with varietie of choycest delicates, that by their diet, there dispositions might bee well discerned; for this is the fewell which feedes and cheriseth the fyer of lust: *Sine Cerere & Libero friget Venus*, When they had stoutly caroused and thoroughly pampered themselves, with these prouoking preparatiues, the table being now vncouered, they fell from quaffing to discoursing; then one of the dames and shee most impudent, (if this their excesse admitted any such degree of difference) calde for her lute, which singering too fitly, for so vnfit a purpose, shee accorded thereto with hir voice, and bewrayed (as followes) in a Canzon, the occasion of there meeting.

Happie lot to men assign'd
 Hartes with harts in loue combinde:
 Loue the some of earthly sweetes,
 Where with mutuall loue it meets:

Greene in Conceipt

Not consisting all in lookes,
 Like to Idols, lay-mens bookes;
 But who tryes, this true shall proue;
 Action is the life of loue.

Why slacke we then to bath in sweet delight,
 Before our day be turn'd to endlesse night?

Fairest things, to nothing fade,
 Wrapt in deaths eternall shade:
 Hence I proue it beauties crime,
 Not to reape the fruiis of time;
 Time which passeth swift as thought;
 Time whose blisse is dearely bought;
 Dearely bought so soone to faile vs;
 Soone, that should so long auaille vs.

Why slacke wee then to bath in sweete delight,
 Before our daye be turnd to endlesse night?

Loue and beautie fade together,
 Fickle both as changing weather:
 Age or sicknes wastes the one,
 That doth faile, when this is gone:
 Let vs then while both doth last,
 Vie them both, care both be past.
 Sport we freely while wee may,
 yet a while it will be daye.

Oh but this day drawes on to endlesse night,
 And with our life, still weares our loues delight.

soone ah soone was *Adon* flaine,
 Bashfull boy how faire in vaine!
 Fram'd by nature to be loou'd:
 Fram'd, but why, himselfe not mou'd?
 Dide hee not in prime of youth,
 Prime of beautie, pray to ruth.

Dye

Dye he did, himselfe preuenting;
 Sorte, vnworthy all lamenting.
 Oh thinke on him which changing safe delight,
 For certaine danger, turn'd his day to night.

But me thinks I talking see,
 How each minute slippes from me.
 Losse I deeme the least delay;
 Hast we then to this sweete play,
 Whence is suckt the sappe of pleasure,
 Such as loue by time doth measure:
 Loue that gardes his mothers forte,
 Peeping oft to see the sport:
 A sport how rare, how rich in sweete delight!
 But we how dull, how nere our day to night!

Scarce had she ended, when they began, whose courages
 too prompt by custome, were by wine whet on to wātonnes.
 Cetera quis nescit? we may moze then guesse what was the
 sequell, by noting the precedence, both bad, but the latter a
 wrong inextimable to y^e right of wedlocke: a matter so offen-
 siue to modest ears, y^euen impudence might blush relating
 it: but thoughts blush not to whom I referre it. Lust staine to
 loue, bane to beautie, path to shame, wanted here no effects:
 for Valeria thus entered into this exercise, like the game so
 well, y^e henceforth she could neuer leaue it. Boldnesse bred
 by vs^e grew so absolute, in being dissolute, that it seemed in
 hir a second nature: who committing sinne with greedines,
 by offenting in one, became faulty in many. For most vices
 are linked together in such an vnion of affinity, & cleaue so
 sister-like in one knot, (each mutually depēding on y^e other)
 that neuer any is imploped alone. This lustful dame not
 liking hir natieue beautie (though sufficient) would needes
 augment it with artificiall braueries, leauing no deuice
 vnplotted, no deceit vnpractised, to make gracious hir
 grace.

gracelesse selfe: And I feare she hath herein too many followers, which spoyle there stommacks with vnſauory myxtures thereby to seeme eye-sweete, though scarce hart-sounde; or repaire their ruinous faces, by ouerlaping them with a false glosse of adulterine fayrenesse, whereas chaste beautie scornes acquaintance with Apothecaries bores. But why talke I of chastity, treating of a subiect so vnchast; wherein whatsoeuer conceipt, or custome might afforde, shee faile not to apply effectually: And y more to garnish these ballard glories, she ware alwaies such ouersumptuous attyre, that many in desert, and dignitie farre exceeding hir, were in this, as farre behind hir. No common fashion could please hir fancie, but it must be strange, and stately, drawing many eyes to gaze on hir, which apm'd wholly at singularitie, glorying to bee peerelesse in hir pompe, Neuer was any to hir power more lauish in varietie of wastefull vanities: neuer any so peruerse in pride, and with such difficulty to be pleased: For were the least stitch in hir Atyre not as shee would haue it, though the garment most fayre and costly, the Tailor most rare and cunning, yet would shee furiously sling it from hir, with purpose neuer to weare it; so that the silly workeman set at his non plus, lost both hir custome and the credit of his workmanship. Next I note hir gluttonous appetite, not in the quantitie, but in the qualitie of of hir fare, which was so delicate and ouer daintie, that this lust-pampering diet, was no decorum in hir husbands state. To preuent ill smells, shee alwaies furnisht hir house and garments with choyce perfumes, hir eyes deigned no trypall objects: without musicke no meat would be downe, so mightily was this modest creature troubled (for sooth) with melancholy. Thus euery sence, had his excellence, and (which more is) hir gylefull lookes sharing with the Adamant his attractive power, could by an odde tricke whereto shee had inured them, worke petty wonders.

If pacing in the streets he had seene any, whose outward semblance, might argue his inward sufficiency, he would court him with a glance, whereto if he answered with the like, then was the match halfe made. and they needed but one meeting to assure the bergaine. Deeme you this not wonderfull, to pleade passion in dumbe action, to speake in silence, and speeche by signes? oh why was sinne thus ingenious, to excogitate so close a method for the furtherance of misdoeing, or why should wantons erre in wit, thereby to spurre on there vnbridled wills? Thus you see that nothing wanted, save only the cloking of his crime, with the shew of holynesse and religion, whose outward pretext is now a practise of great import, and a mightie pillar of such carnall deuotion. Sinne appearing in his owne colloz, should soone be knowne. A smoth habit of hipocresie is defined by some, an intellectuall vertue, though a morall vice. But the haunting of priuate conuenticles being then not heard of, this pollicy could haue no ground. Yet Valeria though wanting, so great an helpe, wanted no fauorites, whose number by other meanes she still augmented: they straying lustely their power in all sorts possible, (if any possible at full to please hir) were oft inforced for supply of their exhausted pitch, to diet themselves with drugs, and trot dayly to th'apothecaries for such trash. Of this crue the chiefe competitor was named Arthemio, whose advantage the wily Dame dissembling, did so temper hir intemperate lookes, and thereby held him in such suspence, y though she somewhat grac'd him aboue the rest, because loath to leaue him; yet could he not gather by hir countenance any assurance of his content. Hir pollicie was, by concealing his prerogative, to retaine hir soueraintie: Hir feare, that by disclosing it, she should arme his thoughts with insolencie, and he shake off that subiection wherein now shee had him: Arthemio which looked for a better market by Giraldos death, then present maintenance in his life, faile not

to embrace all likely meanes, to make vse of all occasions, to applye each opportunitie for the attaining and assuring of *Valerias* fauour to himselfe; still doubting his desires accomplishment, because not p̄iue to his owne desert. After many thoughtes, hee deem'd this course the best, to seeme rauished by hir beautie; for well hee knewe, that herein to flatter women was highly to please them: In effecting which resolution, he did so quaintly counterfeite the drouping louer, both in his lookes, and other gestures, that her witte blinded through selfe-conceit, was by his wiles farre ouer reacht. At sight of hir hee would seeme so fillde with ioy, as if hir p̄sence, were his onely pleasure. When shee left him, he would sigh, and saie such sorrow, as if his comfort began and ended with hir company.

Thus had he his lookes at such conuincement, as women haue their teares: when shee talked he listned with such attention, as if hir voice had beene inchantingly melodious: ofte, (but on purpose when shee sawe him) he would steale a broken loke on hir: then (as loath that shee shoulde note him) cast downe his eyes, and fourthwith raise them to reuewe hir. Hee would inuite hir to sumptuous banquets, ofte sollicite hir with amorous conceits, of which so many, I haue related two as instances of the rest, wherein you may cleerely see hir blindness, with his bouldnesse.

In the p̄ime of their acquaintance it chanced that *Arthemio* was earnestly intreated to make one in a maske, for the gracing of a mariage; which request he fane granted, knowing that *Valeria* (though with hir husbando) should be there a guest, to whom intending some odde toy in writing, because assur'd that without suspicion he coulde not there imploy his tongue, and for that cause woulde not presume to much on his visard, he pende immediatly some fawne or tempoꝛall lines, with purpose thereto deliuer the which might fully intimate his forgi'd affection. The time came; the maskers in their disguise appeard, when *Arthemio* hauing first taken
the

his myſtris to the meafures; and then withdrawing hir
the daunce being ended, briefly whiſpered in hir eare his
name; and conueyed into hir hand theſe lines: which done,
he left her. ſhee finding that night an opportunitie (for
ſhee could commaunde occasions; haueing hir huſbande at
controlement) peruſed his ſlight paſſion which followes
thus. (peſt

As when a waue-bruiſd barke, long toſt by the winds in a tē-
Straies on a forraine coaſt, in danger ſtill to be ſwallow'd,
After a world of feares, with a winter of horrible obieſts,
Heau'n in a weeke of nights obſcur'd, day turnd to be darknes,
The ſhipmans ſolace, ſaier *Ledaſt* winnes at an inſtant,
Signes of a calme are ſcene, and ſcene are ſhrilly ſaluted: (me
So to my drooping thoughts, when ſorrow moſt doth await
Your ſubduing lookes, in ſayreneſſe firſt of a thouſand,
(Staine to the brighteſt ſtar, that gildes the roote of *Olimpus*)
Calm'd with a kind of aſpect, vouchſafe large hopes to releue
Such is your bewty, which makes your bounty ſo pow'ful; (me:
Such to mee your beawty, which makes your bounty ſo blis-
Whoſe each worth to relate, my wortheleſſe pen is vnable: (ful;
Haires of a goldlike hewe; (not pureſt gold ſo refulgent)
Pearle-like piercing eyes (not pureſt pearles ſo relucent)
Cheekes of a maiden-dye, with a ſnow white circle adorned:
That roſy-redde as a roſe, this *Lillie* white as a lillie;
Not ſuch a red, ſuch a white, to be ſcene in a Roſe or a *Lillie*.
Every part ſo repleat with more then could be required,
That to behold hir worke, eu'n Nature ſelfe was amazed:
Muſe not then that I loue, but muſe that I liue, if I loue not:
Muſe that I draw my breath, mine eyes, nor drawne by thy
Yet, ſhal I loue in vain, in vain ſuch bewty beholding, (bewty.
Deem' ſo to loue, ſo to looke, that lokes & loue be rewardleſſe:
Better it is to be dead, by death from care to be ſcleered;
Care the records of loue, ſow re loue when ſlightly regarded.
Grant me then (o ſayreſt) aſſurance ſo to be fancied,
That nor I droope diſmaide, nor doubt, nor fully reſolued.

Valeria hauing red this tope, smilde to thinke how hee which had on hir so mighty an aduantage, was held by hir at such a bay, because not prouide to his owne prerogatiue. Thus did they both dissemble; hee in feining great affection where little was, she in making shewe of little, where much was. Upon occasion of this tope Valeria at thier next meeting thus saluted him. Seruant you are welcome from the Sea: what newes (I pray you) among shipmen? Arthemio smelling hir drift, and liking well the motion, but dissembling it, replyde thus: Distres it were strange hee should be welcome from the sea, which neuer saw the sea: But more strange (quoth shee) that land-men should in stormes be driuen to expect ayde from starres; Lich to them the greatest tempestes are meere trifles, if we weigh the seas huge tossing. Yet (quoth Arthemio) such may the stormes be, & such the starres, that the one may be as ruthless, and the other as requisite: That you meane (quoth shee) by the sandy sea, where men are oft drowned in dust, and their bodie remnants become drugges. But it seems by your short returne, and sound complexion, that you were not a passenger in those parts.

Hereto Arthemio thus answered: the sea wherein I yet do saile, readie still to sinke, if not supported by your fauour, is no lesse strange then that of land; for amidst the flambe I freile: (such are my feares) amidst the floode I flame (such is the feruor of my affection,) my shippe floats, yet not on water; the waues which beat on it are sobbes: It sailes, yet on no sea; the windes which breath on it are sighes. But by your leaue (replyed Valeria) are you still a sea-man, and not yet on shore? then was my welcome ill bestowed, before your selfe were well arriv'd: but to vnmaske this misterie, me thinks your sea is very metaphoricall, & I muse that where the lymies are so straight, the danger can be so extreame: It is (quoth hee) generally obserued, that the floode is roughest, where most restrained.

And

And no lesse generally noted (quoth shee) that the Sea is of Elements the most uncertaine, whose waues are by each gale of wind raise in billowes. If then your application hold as generall, I rather commend your Metaphors conceit, then your wittnes constancie. But it were (said hee) iniustice to charge the Patient with the Agents fault. Although my thoughtes (my fancies Sea) cost swirt vaine hopes and feares, plunge my heart in dire perpletitities: yet that my illie shippe, ranging in this rocky Ocean of despair, though not hauing still one Current, strides still to keepe one course: and amidst so many changes, remains unchanged, though ried with troubles, which are (some say) loues surest trialls. Accuse not then, much lesse condemne that of disloyaltie, whereto life shall sooner faile then it to loue: and which sooner may by death be broken, then breake those Amanantine bondes, wherein your beautie making through mine eyes a breach, holdes it tathald. But why talke I as if in me it rested to repeale my passions, which doe share with the stone Abelson his retentive vertue? For as that being once hote is neuer after colde, so my fancie fettered in affections chaines by your soule-intangling fairenesse, is now not capable of libertie. Or rather (quoth Valeria) your thoughtes masked vnder your decetuling looks disguise, resemble the Camellion; and as that can in a moment be clad with any colour, but retaines none; so your fancie can at the view of euery pleasing face, forge new passions, but persist in none.

Hereat Arthemio guiltie to himselfe, did bite the lippe, because knowing she spake the truth; yet comforted, in that shee meant it not a truth, but onely as tearmes of course, whereto as he would haue answered, other companie brake off their conference: and they with the rest fell from loose talke to lustfull toying: breadding nothing lesse, then that their leudnesse could be discovered.

His second humour was this: Against Valerias birth-

day hee had of purpose pend this following Dittie, and on the verie day sent it her by that trull, through whose counsell shee was first seduced, and into whose familiaritie hee had of late insinuated, because knowing how much Valeria did loue and trust her. Shee comming as a friend and neighbour, and beeing withall a notable hypocrite, had both easie access and priuat conference without suspicion: for it seemd a thing not to be doubted of, that the subject of their talke was onely some gossips matter, as among women it is ordinarie. Beeing thus alone with her, after a large p[re]face of Arthemios deepe affection (for so had he before concluded) shee deliuered her on his behalfe this welcome p[re]sent, which Valeria forthwith unfolding, read as followeth.

Let others vse what Calenders they please,
And celebrate their common holidayes;
My rules for time, my times of ioy and ease
Shall in my zeale blaze thy perfections praise:
Their names & worth they frō thy worth shal take;
And highly all be honoured for thy sake.

That day shall to my thoughts still holy be,
Which first vouchsafed thy beaunie to mine eyes;
That day when first thou deign'dst to fauour me,
And each from some peculiar grace arise:
But mongst them all, my dutie shall attend
This more then all, on which they all depend.

Haile happie day, to whorne the world doth owe
The blissefull issue of that influence,
Which from the force of best aspects did growe,
In luckiest house of heau'ns circumference:
Haile happie day that first didst shewe this aire,
To her whom Fairenes self doth yeeld more faire.
Nere

Nere be thy brightnes dimed by wind or raine;
 No cloud on thee forestall *Hyperions* light;
 On thee no doome pronounc'd of death or paine;
 No death or paine endurde; no bloudie fight:
 But be thou peacefull, calme, and cleare for aye;
 Let feasts and triumphes choose thee for their day.

On thee I vowe to rest from all affaires,
 To giue large almes to poore distressed men;
 Not to profane thy ioy by fretting cares;
 To send my saint some tribute of my pen;
 And when thou dawn'st, deuoutly still to say,
 Haile happie, holy, high, and heau'nly day.
 Such and so long may be to me her lolie,
 As Ile this vow religiously maintaine;
 So may my plaints her heart to pittie mooue,
 As from my heart I speake: let false hearts faine.
 Haile happie day; but then how happie shee,
 Who makes this day thus happie vnto me!

Gentlemen, you need not doubt that Valeria, whose ouersoothing humoz made her interprete flatterie for truth, was no lesse proude of this then of the former, howsoeuer she dissembled her inward content, euen to her sinnes owne secretarie and chiefe directour, least Anthemio should by her meanes lay holde on that assurance, which by himselfe hee could not gather. But marke (I pray you) how thicke a mist of dotage Giraldos good nature had cast before his eyes. As the trull was readie to depart, he would needes force her to carrie dinner, telling her merily that this was his wifes birth-day, whereon he had prouided an extraordinary dish, and thought none so meete as her selfe to taste thereof,

thereof, being so kinde and louing a neighbour, requesting her withall to repayre oftener to his house, to vilit and passe away the time with his wife, and when she walked abroad, to beare her company. They hearing these wordes, did in their lookes argue each to other their high content, grounding (though falsly) on his simplicitie, the safe continuance of their delights, as being thereby exempted from all dread and danger of discouerie. But the highest flood hath the lowest ebbe, the hottest Sommer presignifies the coldest winter; tempestes in the prime of Autumne, are least dreaded, but most dangerous. Shame sinnes guerdon, is then nearest, when throught selfe-soothing securitie, the feare thereof is fardest. And as the fish Remora, though little, can stay the greatest shippe: and the Crocodile though in the shell one of the least, prooues afterwarde the greatest Serpent that haunts the shore of Nilus: so not selbome in this worldes accidentes the detecting of deepest crimes, springs from the lightest and most unlikely occasions: for prooue of which assertion, I neede no farther instance than this subiect whereon I intreat.

Giraldo among other seruants, had one named Iockie, a fillie boy bozne in the North of Albion, and employed in basest errands, such commonly as concerned the kitchen: It chaunced on a time, that as Valeria had left the house, gone forth of purpose to sport with her companions, immediately after her departure, this Iockie was sent abroad, when (straying in a boyish humoz to gaze on the gayest objects in some other street) he espied suddenly his Distresse before him, and stept backe as halfe amazed; but recalling forthwith his courage, and noting more exactly one of her company, whose lewde and dissolute life was commonly known, he began knauishly to suspect, that ech of her other mates were likewise of the same mould. To confirme or confute which imagination, he followed them alooke; yet so warily, that hee saw them houlde, himselfe not seene: and
closely

closely howering neere the doze, espied their millions entering in order, with other such apparant likelihoods, as hee now no longer suspected, but certainly beleueed, that Giraldo his master was as soundly armed for the head, as either Capricorne or the stoutest hoznd signe in the Zodiacke. Having made this triall, he departed, doubtfull what to determine: for on the one side, hee foresawe his owne most assured daunger, in revealing what hee had discovered, such well hee knewe that one of his mistres wordes could outweigh, one of her teares wipe out a volume of accusations by him produc'd: which graunted, what then might follow but this, that the guerdon of his tongues lavishnes, should be laide on his shoulders: Besides, his Distresse by this meanes irreconcilable, for women which by nature embrace extreames, beeing therein onely constant, persist not so in any as in malice: and what mischief that might effect, he though young, had for his owne part experience enough. But on the other side well hee sawe, that his Masters credite already staine, and his disgrace daily augmented, would spread so it selfe, still gathering force by going forward, that if not now restrained, it must needs at last to his then-greater shame, and incurable sorrowe, either by others be detected, or of it selfe breake forth: for neuer yet was sinne long in league with secrecie. Tender twiggess may with ease be bowed: the full grown tree sooner broken, then bent. The now-detecting of Valerias crime, might recall her, and prevent Giraldos future reproch, but her offence if longer cherished by sin-nourishing silence, would in the end become inextinguishable. In regard hereof lockie courageously resolv'd to overpeaze the feare of danger with the care of dutie. In which vaine returning home, and heeing accusde of loytering by such as sent him, he appealed to his master, by whome likewise being sharply demanded ycause of his long tarryance, he revealed to him in secret what he had seene, & proov'd to himselfe a true prophet, in receiving for

his thanklesse seruice, that guerdon which befoze hee lustily feared. For Giraldo ayming amisse at his inclination, deemed this a villanous deuice forgoe by the boy to breed discord between him and his wife: wherof this was no sleight presumption, in that Valeria was euer sharpe to him. But when lockie (which would not cowardly giue ouer hauing thus entred) continued his discoueries, still furnisht with moze friendly oppozunities, & did oft-constantly offer vpon the hazard of y^e whip, to make his master eye-witnes of that, wherof his eares deigned no acceptāce; Giraldo at last deeply reuoluing in his pensiue thoughts the boies large proffer, and much desirous to know at full the state of his own forehead, wherein he seemed to feele already some alteration, agreed to his request, waiting a cōuenient time; & being then by him conducted, saw what hee sighth to see, & for euer sorrow'd to remember. Now iealousie (of all hags most hellish) whose neuer closed eyes in number infinite, shun truce with sleep, whose tongues & eares equalling her eyes are still imployd, these in listning, they in whispering. This fiend (I say) shedding her selfe into his thoughts, and pouring into euery vaine her venime, did by continuall torturing of his care-tired soule, gather vpy losses of her long delay: now wrought she on his intangled wits as on an anuill, hatching in his brains vnwanted horrors. He y^e earst weighed not his friends words dissuading him from marriage, did now moze then admire his truth presaging wisdom, & much bewaild his own folly, in not crediting such good counsell: he that earst voted in blindness, seemed now as cleere-sighted in discovering Valerias fault; as far-seeing Linceus in discerning the Punique fleet. He that earst deemed all gospel which his wife spake, did now dread deceit in euery syllable, & mistrusted her each step, ech looke, ech sigh, ech smile: briefly, whatsoeuer by her was done, he deemed misdoon. But how in nature could earth-incinerating Aenas wombe bigswolne with flames, brooke inclosure, nor enforce an issue through violent eruption? The

The world circling Ocean, threatening in his some source
 a second deluge, if not let blood in hollow Cavernes, & thence
 suckt up by the thirstie earth, would overflow the continēt:
 aire restrained breaks forth in whirlwinds: wrong'd loves
 restless (if once rais'd) suspicious, the thoughts burning Aetna,
 boyling Ocean, & ever-blustering whirlwind, piercing tho-
 rough the eares unto the heart, must be in words exprest, or
 the drooping mind by words suppress. Giraldo therefore, that he
 might discharge his overburdened selfe, no longer able to
 sustaine his sorowes weight, faile not to embrace y^e first oc-
 casion, chose his time, made his triall, and thus sadly bea-
 king silence he bespake Valeria.

Wife, I had thought until experience proov'd it false, that
 outward gifts were ever likt with inward graces; but now
 I find, y^e in the sweetest fruits wormes are soonest bred; that
 the finest cloth is soonest eaten with consuming mothes; the
 freshest colours soonest tainted by defacing spots; even from
 fairest roses spiders suck their fatal poison. Trothles Va-
 leria (but I want a sharper Epithet) when first I saw thee,
 I affected thee, my love taking life from thy looks fairenes,
 yet well hop'd I of thy then-seeming vertues forwardnes,
 which hope long I held; but it now hath left me, & I too late
 haue learn'd, that as Iris hath many colours but none conti-
 nuing, Proteus at his pleasure any shape, but none certaine;
 the sea many calmes, but yet the wary shipmā neuer secure;
 so thy wit wrested by wantonnes, made, how faire a shew of
 vertue, thy selfe still nothing lesse then vertuous! But when
 the substance failes, needs must the shadow fade. Time the
 father of truth, drawing from before mine eyes the baile of
 dotage which closde them as in a cloud, hath unclaspt the
 legend of thy lines shame, to weare out my life with sorow.
 Shame (I say) which neuer shall haue end; sorow, which
 death alone may end. Duse not if that for which I still haue
 lov'd thee, be now come barren of delight, such y^e which long
 I hope in thee, had neuer harbor in thy thoug^{hts}. O thou of
 women the most unwomanly, say & sigh (if not all shameles)

wherein haue I deseru'd this iniury: or by what wrong prouokt (if any wrong sufficient to prouoke an honest mind) hast thou yeelded that to others which by the lawes of God & men thou owest to me alone? Did I euer countermand thy desires, euer contradict thy designments; euer crosse thee, or unkindely thwart thee in thy commandements: didst thou not alwaies go when thou wouldst, whither and with whome thou wouldst, spend what thou wouldst, rule without controlment, disposing all things at thy pleasure? Oh therein I wrought thy wacke, strenghtening thy corrupt nature with corrupting libertie. But aye mee, my wordes work in thy countenance no change. What haue thy cheeks forgot to blush, thy heart to feele compunction, thine eyes to shed due teares? Teares they shed such as the Crocodill, to ensnare the silly passenger, not tears to argue thy contrition. Thou which art for sinne too fleshly, for repentance art too stonie. Oh if thou wouldst but sigh, I should hope of thy amendment: but sigh thou wilt not, or thou canst not: wilt not, in that thou art too wilfull; canst not, because long custome hath wholly corrupted thee. Were hee paus'd; for to proceede grieffe would not permit him: but Valeria though not looking for such a lesson, yet bearing it out with a bold face, wherein impudencie was thoroughly settled, after a tempest of rough termes, urged him to produce the authors of his accusation: which when he had done, naming Iockie & himself, she standing stoutly in defiance of them both, & renewing her railing vaine, would in the heat of her womanish fury, haue sillie Iockie thrust out of the house, as the breeder of their discord: But herein he withstanding her, began now in vain to vse that which of right to him belonged, I meane, the husbandes soueraigntie, by her sexe so much affected, by her still vsurpt with most aduantage: for how could he now recover what his long sufferance had to her confirmed? The fault whereof resting wholly in himselfe, the effect thereof did likewise to himself wholly redoubt: which in ouer-fondly manifesting his entire affection, a secret by husbands warily

to

to be handled) armed his impietie with impudence, his impudence with impunity. But while nature slept that felicitie might awake, there followed a mightie change: for the mildnesse in him so much commended, which appearing from his birth, wanne to him the mindes of all those which conuert with him, was now vanquished by murtherage; nor such rage to be conuicted, if we weigh the ground whence it arose. They had therefore nought to marvelle at, which sawe their former discorde, vnshe by following disagreement, his loue now, conuerted to loathing. Sith his loue peruerted by lust, of his wonted kindnesse vying in vniuersal vphradings: the cause amply warants the effect. Giraldo ofte inueighing, because seeing in him no amendment, yet had euer the disadvantage: For shee openly despying and denying whatsoeuer he oblietted, hoping to bear out his crime with boldnesse, thought it not enough his selfe to outmatch him wearying his eares with outrageous scoulding (for with his tongue shee was as tall a warriour as any of his sex:) but which is worse, set on his owne children, to ventle their silly father: they though trained vp from their cradle in all boldnesse and neglect of duety, were herein impiouly obedient, too promptly conceauing and practising their wicked mothers death-worthie doctrine. Like examples fewe ages can afforde, fewe countries pealbe, much lesse should Albion (polished so with ciuilitie, and native mildenesse of well ordered manners) harbor such vniuersal heinousnesse, which is rare euen to the barbarous Geres. Giraldo hauing till then helde out in changing bitter termes with him, was hereat so amazed, that he now no longer wished to liue: In his howse he had no toy, sith there hapned thus by them, which from his howells had their being. But when thunning ofte his home, he strayed abroad reuoluing in himselfe with many sighes his infinite fore-passed cares, present corrosiues, and likelihoode of farre greater ensuing griefe; Lockey in

his absence neuer wanted blowes, nor had a cause, though
 faulſe, yet ſeeming iuſt, haueing a witte ſo rich to cōpue
 occaſions, power ſo abſolute, and a will ſo much inflamed
 with wrath to vſe them. Thus both the maſter, and the
 man, the one in minde, the other in bodie by this Tyrann-
 nelle outragiouſly afflicted, wiſhed the firſt neuer to haue
 wedded hir; the ſecond y his maſter had herein, likewiſe been
 by hir ouer-maſtered, when to thwart hir fury, he would needs
 retaine him ſtil in ſeruite; But he not moued by hir crimes
 diſcouery, proceeded dayly in miſdoing, with ſo ſto-
 boꝛne preſenting wilfulneſſe, that ſoner might the ſonne
 melt with his beames, the euer yſie bulke of wayleſſe
 Caucasus, ouer whole ſnow-manteled ſhoulders they
 glance without reflection; Then hir unfrozen thoughtes
 melt with true ſorrome, or (which is leſſe) hir heede-
 leſſe eares, admit (though ſleightly) holſome conſolations;
 eares moze deafe to friends reproouinges, then are the
 wack-riſh Libique rocks, or the queſtleſſe ſhip ſwalow-
 ing Sirtes, to the cries of dying marriage; ſuch force hath
 cuſtome euen againſt nature; Then how inuincible where
 backed (as here it was) by nature peruerſitie? When
 Vliſſes mates turn'd from men to beaſtes, although the
 taſte of Circes potions, had it afterwarde in their owne
 choyce, whether they would ſo remaine, or reſuming their
 former ſhapes, returne from beaſtes to men againe; they
 would in no ſort be remeta-morphoſed, alſeading, that in
 this there brutiſhe ſtate, they were farre moze exempted from
 hart-gnawing greefe, farre moze ſecure, then when their
 bodie were with humane ſhape inueſted: which fiction
 moralized as Homer ment it, doth not onely note our liues
 troubles fraught with infinite diſtreſſing dangers, but
 likewiſe, that when reaſon is by affection ouerruled, and
 the ſoule our better parte, ſlaue to the bodie tyrannye,
 our baſer parts, ſuch as are charmed with the lone of ſenſu-
 all delights (wherein we wholly communicate with beaſts
 and

& degenerating from our states decorum, participate to the
 their nature, which is altogether led by fete-bred appetites)
 are then so deeply bewitched in wantonnes, & they will soone
 dye for loue of it: then while they live, in any sort assent
 to leaue it: but as the biting of the Aspicke, brings death as
 in a slumber, & assault therof not being felt; so where defil-
 ling lust hath raigne as full, they whose thoughtes it hath
 polluted, haue no feeling of their destroying follies, till
 plunged in the midst of their deserved paines. When the
 stoope is at his highest source, then it takes the ebbe his turne,
 Valerias crime fostered through long concealing, was
 nowe subiect to sturges desseyne, which is, to bee as openly
 discovered, as it was before closely couered: His offence
 earst priuately reueald to his wrong'd husbände, did soone
 after become publike, & with him, the partnours of his im-
 pyetie shad like fortune. & what can be moze iust, then
 that they which sinne together, should participate the shame
 therof together? And thus it was. After many meetings,
 many mischiefes perpetrated by that troope of trulles, it
 chanced that in one of their fleshly synods, newes were tould
 of a great solemnitie, which within fewe dayes was to bee
 celebrated, with much royale at the court: whereupon at
 Valerias motion, they immediately resold, that fured in-
 mens atyre, they would meete there in a maske, there
 fauozies, which promise without faile there to finde them,
 and after one spozte acted by themselves, to act on them
 another, with so much the moze safetie, by how much the
 sarder they should bee from their husbandes: whose noses
 growing now with their hoznes somewhat longe, coulde
 smell shrowdly any thing as hande. As then there laying
 out of curled heare, (sawing off the wants of their almost
 hearelesse scalpes) so light a crime: their buskes, and that
 great humpie of Paris, that baile of lechery, so slight a
 sinne, (being so soueraigne a remedy for bigge bellies,
 which ofte at a pinch helpe forwarde the woordes increase

with swelling zeale,) were there other former fautes such veniall offences, that to exceede them all, and hererein only able to exceede them, they must thus disguise there sere? But why maruell I at their desire to seeme men, sith they so mightily affected men? yet could they not conueigh their ill contriued intent with such secrecie, but that sundry knewe thereof (for amongst so many how could all be silent?) passing thus from one mouth to an other it came in the ende to the heering of certaine courtiers, of which one, the greatest in account, deeply abhorring so odypous an enterprize, boldly reueald it to the prince of those times, who desiring to see the issue of their impudence, (though deeming it almost impossible, that anye of that sex should be so shamelesse) commanded generall silence, and such semblance, as if nothing were discouerd. They going forward with their attempt, sayd not to assemble at the day assigned, each being easd in his mynions best attyre: then vsing the benefite of the darke, which is guilty of many mischiefes, they came to the court, and there suing for farther accessse, obtain'd it, thinking of nothing lesse, then that they were intrapt: But to dispatch the matter brieuely; In the midst of their solicie, they were by the princes commaundemente all forceably vnamaskt, standing then before him, as stony Images, not blushing ought at this bewraying of their lewdnes, though environed, and like monsters gazd on by many eyes, nor making any shewe of sorrowe, for their soueraigus sharpe rebukes, which conceiuing no hope of their amendment, sent them home with open shame unto their husbands. The griefe whereof pinched Giraldo so nere the heart, that he fell through sorrow into a greuous sicknesse, which wasted so his infeebled body, that all remedies fayling, his last musique was the sertons vnison, summoning him with a dolefull sounde, to make ready for his longest home. When no lesse desirous of death, then disparing of life, he cauld all
in

in the chamber to withdraue, (Valeria excepted) whom calling to him, he thus bespake: Might these last wordes worke that remorſe in thee, which my former ſpeeches neuer could effect: I ſhould deeme my ſelfe not wholly vn-happie. That I am ſicke, thou ſeeſt: that dangerously ſick, I feele: the cauſe thy folly: long haue wee liu'd together, in litle ioy, leſſe agrement; our iarring grounded on thy falſhood, not my fault; vnleſſe it were a fault, with too much loue to foſter thy too much libertie: But I ceale to relate former iniuries, at thought whereof I may iuſtly with with Auguſtus, that I had liu'd wiueleſſe, and died childleſſe: bee it a full amendes for all theſe miſdeemeanors, heedfully to obſerue and followe, that which I nowe ſhall ſpeake, not as a huſband, (though in that name I ſhould commaund) but as a friend, no leſſe carefull of thy ſoule, then thou careleſſe of my ſafety: Firſt, if thou canſt containe thy luſt, liue ſtill a widowe; for who heareing of thy looſeneſſe, wil mary thee for loue; and to whom is not thy ſhame knowne? if then hee wed thee for wealth, finding (as needes he muſt) thy ſinne grounded on my too much ſufferance; how ſlauiſh ſhall thy life be vnder him? I omit to vrge thy childrens hinderance by an vnaduiſed match. Next I counſell thee in no ſort to change the ſeat of thy aboade; for what elſe ſhould that argue, then a meer diſpayre of recouering thy loſt good name? continue then where now thou art, ear-neſtly endeauouring to wipe out the blemith of thy former leawdneſſe, by embracing henceforth, and perſiſting to the ende, in an honeſt courſe of life; ſo ſhall the ſame place and perſons that ſawe thee vicious, ſee likewise thy returne to vertue; the report whereof receiued from others might iuſtly be doubted, but their owne witneſſe to themſelues muſt needes bee authenticall. Beleue me Valeria thou canſt not otherwiſe weare out the impref-ſion of thy ſhame; nor can it in ſuch ſort bee ſo curde, that no ſcarre will remaine: This for thee: and thus breefely

G

for

for thy ch. lyren: with the shortnesse of my time, w. rnes mee
 likewise to be short in talke: God lent vs thre all sonnes,
 one of which he hath taken againe vnto himselfe: that the
 happiest: Two he hath left to vs, and I leauz to thee:
 Refoyme them with thy selfe; see them well instructed,
 taught to imbrace vertue, and abhorre vice: Such hether-
 to hath bene their education, that I greue to remember it:
 but thou maiest ioy to better it: Libertye is the bane of
 youth; not for a time, as the honny of Colchos, which doth
 inebriate those that taste it, & distract with one dayes mad-
 ness those that greedely doe eate it: But this soule-contami-
 nat inge poysson, strenghtned by custome, growes incurable:
 Purge then from this infection their tender thoughts,
 while they yet are each way flerible. That thou louest
 the I doubt not, but that thy loue will cherish their leawd-
 nesse, I iustly dzead, and therefore do thus warily admo-
 nish thee; bee thou as wary and willing to perfoyme what
 I requier, tending so greatly to their good: In hope
 whereof I leauz to thee, and after thee to them what
 so euer I possesse: And on condition heereof I forgiue
 both them and thee all the wzonges which you haue
 doone mee: But if you faile heerein; then, when my soule
 shall at the seauenth Angels sounde, take againe this
 my bodie and you be cited befoze the impartiall Tribunall
 of ydeuine maiesty, I wil accuse you as guiltie of them all
 chiefly of my death, whereof you ioyntly are the causers;
 death which I imbrace so willingly, that could Nature for
 my wordes disclame hir due, and the inexorable desti-
 nies, for my laments reuerse their dome, limiting to
 my dayes a longer date; yet woulde I inforce death, by
 not suing for longer life: And dye I must, for now
 I faince euen vnto death; nowe faile my powers:
 nowe doth each sence denye his seruice; And gracious
 heauen seeming to exhale my soule, will resume it
 whence

whence I receiued it : farewell Valeria, thinke on my wordes, as God shall thinke on thee. This saide hee, and seald it with a sigh; then after many groanes prealded the ghost: rendring his spirit to his maker.

But his body was no sooner breathlesse, then lockey was turned to his shiftes : whose good seruice, had not his kinde maister secretly guerdonized befoze his death, doubtlesse his estate had beene very harde. Valeria, though hauing cleene forgotten hir husbandes wordes, which shee markte no longer, then while hee spake them, prouided yet for his buriall in the best sorte; and so much the rather, because in his decease shee ioied the fulnesse of hir owne desires.

His corpes was with funerall pome conueyed to the Church : And there sollemnly enterred; nothing omitted which necessitie or custome coulde claime; A sermon, a banquet, and like obseruations. Haueing thus laide him, where shee wisht him long befoze, shee was nowe a lustie widowe, and courted by that crue of gallantes, whose braueries in hir husbands lifetime shee had beheld, dreining out the quintessence of his bagges to garnishe with gay robes their backes. But Arthemio whose haruest of farre greater hopes then these, was nowe come, which he so long had loockt for, and in regarde thereof woulde not with the rest make profit of hir former prodigalitie: seeing nowe time and occasion smiling on him, flacked not his assayres, but to preuent the first in forwardnesse, and sooner then in reason he should, immediatly on Giralδος buriall, sued for accesse, which finding as hee expected, and for his more incoragement beueing in his mistris countenance, no cloudes of discontent, he thus began his wooing.

It is a custome still in vse with christians, to attend the funerall of their deceased friends with whole
 G₂ chantries

chantries of choyce quire-men, singing solemnly before the:
 but behinde followes a troope all clad in blacke, which ar-
 gues mourning: much haue I marueled at this ceremo-
 ny, deeming it till now, some hidden parador, confoun-
 ding thus in one, things so opposite as these signes of ioy
 and sorowe. But your late good fortune, inforst me to
 cancell this fond opinion: for if singing do with most right
 belong to ioying, who may then so iustly as your selfe, set
 on worke a world of singers, to celebrate the day of your
 recouered liberty, from the tyrannous controlement of a
 ielous lot? To gratulate which your good happe, I haue
 thus aduencured, nor lesse to prosecute my owne hopes,
 doom'd to line or dye at your disposing; herein resembling
 transformed Cluie, which as the angry Sunne doth rise
 or set, opens or shuts (lilly Pimph) hir saffron-coloured
 brest: With then the making or marring of my hopes, doth
 wholly rest in you: deigne rather to quicken them by a gra-
 tious regard, then to kill them by a disgracious repulse:
 make me rather the mirroꝝ of your clemency, then the mar-
 tyre of your cruelty. If you fancey any worthier then my
 selfe, I shall droope for my defects: yf any meaner then my
 selfe, you shall derogate from my deserts: But ay mee, what
 deserts haue I to alleadge, if true affection be no deserte?
 This saide, he paued, as feeling some deeper passion: but
 Valeria no longer able to dissemble, thus with a smile re-
 plide (for weeping was already out of season) Seruant
 (quoth she) that true affection merits fauour, reason grants;
 that not euer barren of desert, thy fortune shall yealde suf-
 ficient prooffe; whose desires I haue hitherto dieted with
 dismayning doubts, thereby to make tryall of thy con-
 stancie: which finding each way faultlesse, I will not that
 throught me it should be frutlesse: But to make amends
 for tying so thy minde with long suspence, and to remu-
 nerate thy fancies loyalty, with more then lookes, I yealde
 wholly to thy disposing, my selfe, my substance, & whatsoeuer
 to

to me is deereſt: Thy coming was to ſpeake, thy good hap to ſpeede both of loue and liuing, largely able to equall thy deſires with thy deſerts, and he this the earneſt of my true intent: here ſhe concluded her words with kiſſes, ſealing on his lippes her loues aſſurance: which kindneſſe he requiting, did answer them with tenfold intereſt: Thence ſtept they to the next degree of louers daltance, and ſo forward while luſt had force. But hauing finiſht, and Valeria being now in the veine, Arthemio deeming it pollicie to ſtrike when the iron was hote, leaſt fortune ſhould not euer reſt ſo friendly, left her not, till beſore ſufficient witneſſes, they had each to other ſolemnly made themſelues ſure: Immediately after which contract, their marriage was in a morning betimes, haſtily huddled vp at a lawleſſe Church: whole leaning Pulpit (a monument of many yeares, but of leſſe vſe then a Cipher in Arithmetique) had fallen ſo farre at oddes with preaching, that, whether through age or ignorance I knowe not, it had long beene like a bell without a clapper. The wedding thus diſpatcht, ſhee daunting to her ſelfe, her ſoules delightes, deem'd this her Comedies Cataſtrophe, changing all former diſcontents into the fulneſſe of her deſires at accompliſhment. But how much ſhe was deceiued, let the ſequell ſhewe. Fame the ſwifteſt euill and lauiſh ſpreader of moſt vnwelcome newes, had now bruted to Theodoros eares Giralδος death, his daughters lewdnes, her late publike infamie and ſecond match: The hearing of which repozt pearſed ſo his heart, that he likewiſe full of ſorrow, peelded his care-weakened bodie to the bed, and thence breathleſſe to the graue: when at the inſtant of his departure, he employed ſome friend in writing, what himſelfe thus with a fainting voice did utter, and as his laſt to her, intend.

DOUBLE murderesse, earſt of thy husband, now of thy father, read what I write, and may thy heart be rent with reading, as mine through thee is rent with ruth. Is this the memorie

which thou wilt leaue, wherein thy name shall liue to eternall obloquy? Is this the issue of my hope when last I left thee; or of thy mothers ioy, when she had borne thee? Oh what floods of tears would she haue shed, had she liu'd to haue seen thy leudnesse? or if the dead know what the liuing doe, how doth her soule mourne for thy sinnes excessse! deeply art thou bound to Nature which shortened her daies by death, and so preuented thy causing likewise of her vntimely end. Hadst thou an infant suckt some fierce Hircanian Tygresse, or been fostered on the ridge of Pholoe by some rauinous Liones, yet couldst thou not haue thus degenerated frō thy kind, in more then brutish misdemeanour. Vipers dig their way to life, thorough the bowels of their dams, & of them the females do in conception kill the males; both which to do, it is their nature. But thou against the rites of nature, & therein far worse then vipers, quist him with death, to whome thou owest thy life: & hast likewise before brought to his end thy harmles husband, to rake into thy bosome the defiler of his bed: fatall to you both be your imbraces, & thou in thy gteatest need enforst to relie on those for succour, whom thy present iniuries do most iustly exasperate against thee: Oh whether hath passion caried me? It beseemes not dying men to ban, much lesse fathers: yet how canst thou tearme me herein cruell, being thy selfe my deaths contriuer? But wheretowast I my wordes in vaine, which will slightly passe thine ears like the weightles *Cumaan* writingstoft each way by the dallying windes? struiuing to reforme an hopeles reprobate, I siew with succesles labor on the sand, and will therefore refer the issue to heauens execution, whose iustice, in making him the instrumēt of thy wo, whom thy selfe hast made the subiect of thy lust, is now imminent & will fall with greater force, then had it been before inflicted: yet wish I as a father thy speedy amendment or speedy end, that thy euils may be the lesse. And so I leaue thee to thy deserts, if thou leaue not thy leud desires.

Thy dying father slaine by thy fault,

Theodoro,

This

This subscription himselfe did write, whose feeble hand another guided: scarce had he written what he would, when hee breathed out his enfranchised soule, ending almost at one instant his life and letter: which Valeria receiving, read without remorse, hearing likewise the manner of his death by the messenger discoursed at large, yet were her eyes still tearelesse: much it was that this could worke in her one houre of melancholly, for she deemed it no decorum to blemish her yet during pleasures with not auailing sorrow. But had Theodoros life beene longer and his writing later, then could not his wordes haue perisht thus wholly without effect: for soone after the receiuing of this letter, her preimagined ioyes failing by degrees, grewe daily lesse: and shee too late, seeing in the present issue of Arthemios former promises, nought but deceit, wished her selfe againe at her owne will, which now shee iustly wanted: nor so staide her fortunes change, for to haue wanted onely herein her wish, it had bene well; or howsoeuer, not wholly ill: But (which was worse) shee beheld apparant likelihoode of farre greater imminent distresse, then were her wonted outward delights. Hee knowing well her humour by his owne so long experience, thought it better to graffe hornes on anothers head, then himselfe to beare the impression: in preventing which misfortune hee vsde this method: To reforme her leudnesse, he restrained her libertie.

That was a day of fauour wherein shee might freely walke about the house, for commonly shee was mewde vp in her chamber: her loose-taild gossips which first incited her to folly, were warnde from approach: especially that arch-queane her greatest counsellor, to whose kindnes himselfe also had been indebted. Those gallant ponkers which long had fed her humors, by seruing her insatiate lust, were hard from access. This was some cozosue to a wilfull wanton, whose desire could erst brook no contradictiō: but these
are

are trifles, if we note her following troubles, so many and so mightie, that it past a womans patience to indure them, if any way able to redresse them. Although her walks were watcht thus narrowly (as many eyes attending her steppes as had Argus guarding transformed Io) yet he most lauishly addicted to lasciuiousnesse, romd abroad at pleasure, wasting his owne bodie and her substance on troupes of trulls, whome he gorgeously maintained. Riches lightly gotten, are soone leudly gone, for who weighes aright the worth of them, being not wearied with paines in gathering them? Pearles did then grow most in price, when they were first purchased with the daungers of many stormes. His minde beeing thus wholly on feasting his Minions with sumptuous bankets, it needes must followe, that Gluttonie made way and worke for her sister Lecherie, which without her furtherance were almost forcelesse. They hauing Sirens tongues and Crocodiles teares, thereby entic'd him to intangle him, and preuailed: for as the Hemlocke of Attica tempered with wine, is of all compounded poysons the most deadly: so of all enticements that is most dangerous, where wit and beautie lodg'd both in one subiect, are so employed.

All this while late poore Valeria at home, surcharg'd with sorrow, not ruminating as yet, so much on repentance of former wantonnes, as drooping through despight of present wants: for now wrathfull heauen setting wide open the gates of vengeance, shew'd downe on her sinfull head heapes of deserued euils, infinitely exceeding the number of her yeares, yet not equalling her dire-offences, whose estate was not herein onely haplesse, to be (as earst) restrained from companie, and from the libertie of her wonted walkes, but likewise in each respect most abiectly miserable: her allowance in attire, and at the table, scarce the shadow of what it was, and hardly fitting the basenesse of her present fortune, her lust dieted with troubles leauings: her
earst-

earst-imperious humor set all on soueraigntie, stoopt to the
 lowest steppes of flauerie; and shee that whilome controlde
 the master, was now subiect without redresse, to the checks
 and taunts of her owne seruants, which thereto authoris'd
 by Arthemios order, limited so straightly her very looks,
 that had she glanc'd her eye on any, though the meanest ob-
 iect, it forthwith bred suspicion; and that no small com-
 plaint, yet must she in no sort (if louing her owne case) cast
 on them an angry countenance to argue her offended mind,
 much lesse bewray in wordes her deepe-setled discontent,
 least he in a fitte of furie thundering forth an Alphabet of
 ugly othes, should amaze her with his affrighting menaces:
 nor did he so containe his outrage, but oft martyring with
 blowes her tender bodie, left on her bruised limmes for
 lasting monuments the irremouable characters of his
 barbarous crueltie; so to verifie the renour of his threates,
 and repay with heaped measure those her markes of thank-
 lesse remembrance, which shee (earst-mercilesse) had lent,
 and laid on silly lockies shoulders. I omit the daily ob-
 iecting of former leudnesse, and Giraldos death continu-
 ally vpbzaides. At the memoire of which so many mis-
 ries, the silly wretch did in sighes and teares discourse her
 sorowes, lamenting iustly the fortune of her change, but
 more the folly of her second choice. Now thought shee on
 her husbands wordes which then she weigh'd not, when hee
 spake them. Now felt shee in her selfe the issue of his too
 true prediction: and as the wearie Mariner seeing from
 farre a storme, known by the seas loud roze, and flocking
 together of birds, prepares himselfe with courage and pa-
 tience to entertaine the perill: so she, whose mind weande
 thus from wantonnesse, reuolud with restless motion fore-
 passed woes, and in her fortunes mappe view'd the yet-
 clouded tracts of following troubles, addrest her selfe to
 beare quietly these deserued crosses, and made nature schol-
 ler to necessitie, but as yet womans frailty could not fully
 digest

digest the sower precepts, of such saint-like patience, which that she might the lesse endure, he slackt not his indeauour, still deuising by what meanes he most might bere her; and had therefore changde his former custome into an order far more impudent: for in stead of banketting his harlots abroad, he now feasted them at home. She was the iudge to prepare their dainties, and scarce thought worthy of the lowest roome, when all their delicats were serud in. Then would hee in her sight kisse his queanes and toy with them, thus daring her to impatience, that thereon he might coine some seeming cause to tyrannize with his fist: for well hee knewe, that the tongue the hearts herald, womens chiefe instrument of reuenge and ease, could then hardly or not at all by her be bridled. Continuing this custome, he once inuited his most affected Trull, to feast her priuately with extraordinary cost; when after the banquet ended and the table vncouered, taking his Lute, he sang to a pleasing note this following dittie, more to crosse his wife, then to content his wanton Distresse.

Waue-tossing windes characterizing feare
 On marble furrowes of the threatfull deepe,
 Rousde from their caues the lowring aire to teare,
 And force the welken floods of showers to weepe:
 (Though stormie blastes doe scatter common fire)
 Burne midst their stormie blastes in hote desire.

Wind-tossed waues which with a gyring course
 Circle the Centers ouerpeering maine,
 And dare heau'ns star-bright turrets in their source,
 Can yet not ease their finnie regents paine:
 But though the floud, the fire in nature quench,
 They burne amidst the flouds which them do drench.

Oh whereto then in drooping hearts distresse,
 Shall I a silly man my thoughts conforme,

Which

Which can no more themselves, themselves redresse,
 Then may some guidelesse Pinnacle in a storme
 Encounter safely barking *Scillas* rocke,
 And safely dare *Charibdis* to the shooke.

Where force doth faile, the weaker needs must yeeld,
 Seing submissiue that his smart may cease:
 Yet maist thou gaine a farre more glorious field,
 Deigning to graunt my care-fraught hearts release.
 The conquest this, t'excell in sauing one,
 Loues irrelenting God, which saueth none.

Here Valeria all enraged and scarce able to forbear so long, flew on h^e others face, taking with her hands such sure hold, that the blood trickled down amaine: which seeing & at sight thereof insulting, she addes this bitter scozne. Now toly mistres vane if you list your beauties conquest. Are you that daintie peece the riual of my right? this the face that hath wrested my husbands fancie? Then turning to Arthemio shee thus proceeds. Monster of inhumanitie, speake (if thou canst without remorse) wherein haue I deserued these many iniuries, this of all the most intollerable? was it for louing thee? yea therein chiefly haue I deserued them, yet not fro thee, which hast thence receiued thy making. Canst thou: but here Arthemio interrupted her words with blows: then pausing hee thus replide. Slanderous strumpet, say if thou canst without blushing (but that thou canst too well) what greater wrong herein sustaint thou, then thou hast offered to thy other husband? How then darst thou terme iustice iniurie: but sith this sight is so offensive, Ile hereafter to greene thy heart, glut thine eyes wth more abhorred objects, & now tame so thy tongue & deuillish fingers, that henceforth thou shalt haue cause to curse the vse of them. This said, hee fell againe to blowes, no^t ceast he from beating, till shee had ceast from shewing answering. Soone after, to effect his first menace, & therein to effect the second, he proceeded more insatiably in heaping wrong on wrong, euen to y^e carnal vsing of

his whores before her face, whose presence hee enforced, making her the unwilling baud vnto their brafflines: yet shee rememb'ring his late outrage, the markes whereof she had yet still to shewe, bare more quietly this the greatest iniurie, then those other which he before had offered. Now had shee learned to smoothe her lookes with signes of mildnesse, although her care-worne heart were big with malice: now did she account patience her only gaine, knowing well that by speaking she could not only not purchase any remedie, but rather make her sorowes thereby more remedilesse, his delight beeing still in doing that which most did vex her, beside the penaltie of her prating, set by him soundly on her shoulders. Loe here an instance prouing it not wholly impossible to ouer-master for the time the miraculous volubilitie of a womans tongue: which though not fearing a brauado of blowes, yet shuns the brunt of a maine reuenge. But howsoeuer Valeria b'iding nature by necessity, could in her husbands sight dissemble her deepe sorowes, yet being alone she could not so containe her passions, but at thought of this so dire a wrong (matter enough to haue mou'd a saints patience) she would oft thus vnrip them. O Valeria, of all the unhappiest, thou wantest many tongues to expresse the many torments which weare thy body & weary thy mind: did thy starres bode thee these miseries, or thine owne amisse breed thee these misfortunes? ah blame not them, accuse not heauen of iniustice, but blamethy selfe, thy sinne, thy vicious liuing; accuse thy selfe, thy lust, thy vnlawful louing: weigh wretched woman with thy distresse, thy deserts: in the one thou shalt find thy sorowes inexplorable, thy shame infinite: both knowen, neither pitied: thy selfe pointed at by passers by, if thou be seene abroad: baited with rebukes & blowes, if thou remain at home: thy goods lauidly wasted to maintain the braueries of trulls vsurping thy right, & insulting on thy ruth: thy childre likewise sharing with thee their portion of deserved punishment: but in the other thou shalt see these thy miseries far lesse then thy misdeedes: what then maist thou expect?

expect ease of these evils: no no Valeria; but till death, think that thy cares shall neuer ende: And that they then may cease, no; thou bee doom'd to eternall woe, sue while thou liuest with ceaselesse intercession, else shall thy sute bee vaine: remission, if not purchast eare life be past, is sought too late.

The bodies each sicknesse may be expelled by choyce of Symples: mercy only sought with true penitence, can salure the sin-sicke soule. But what talkest thou of penitence which nere wouldst lend one minuts listning to those that thereto would perswade thee; nere humiliate with harts contrition, thy mindes haughtinesse? Nowe is the morning past, the sunne declining, the euening shadowes haue beset thee: Oh but dispaire not, leaue that to those whose hopes haue left them; Thy hopes are many; Hadst thou liued and died in wonted ease, Iulde so in deepe securitie, then had thy state beene wholly desperate: But these crosses are gentle summons to recall thee, directions to reduce thy straying steppes, woundes which heale and so extended: Learne then thy vse of these afflictions, sith to be happie, thou must be haplesse. Tush sonde Valeria thy talke is vaine; wilt thou preach of abstinence to pyning Tantalus, of welth and pleasure to dying men, of patience, to thy impatient selfe? Thinke on thy husband and on thy father, dead through thee: on thy kindred iustlye hateing thee: on thy children which still doe liue, but through thee haue nothing left: After these thinke on thy selfe, thy sinnes, thy sorowes: Sinnes and sorowes innumerable, infinite, intollerable: What is now thy Theam of patience? Where thy hopes, or whence thy helpe? Weer would shee stoppe amidst dispaire, making that hir passions periode, then in the silence of teares and sighs, act anew hir soules distresse. Once in the depth of hir meditation, somewhat to recreate hir care-duld spirits, shee tooke hir Lute, and therto warbled with a fainting voice, this sleight ode.

Greene in Concept.

Hauing long reuolu'd in thought,
 Long vnto my selfe lamented,
 Since I first to sinne assented,
 All the ill my sinne hath wrought;
 Enforc't I am with signes to say,
 Myne eyes did plot my soules decay.

These all heedelesse of the harmes,
 Guilfull Sirens had intended,
 In like faults with them offended,
 Listning to their luring charmes:
 Whereby inforst, with sighes I say,
 Mine ears did first my soule betray.

Then began each other sence,
 Taught by them to wrest his vse,
 Reauing me of all excuse,
 Sought to shadow sinnes pretence,
 Whereby enforc't with sighes I say,
 Mine ears did first my soule betray.

Instruments of griefe and shame,
 Sundering *Istbmus* of true pleasure
 Chast delights vnspotted treasure,
 Wracke and death of my good name;
 Why force you me with sighes to say,
 That you did first my soule betray?

But oh cease fond wretch t'accuse,
 Done, vndon things cannot bee:
 More it now concerneth thee,
 Other minde and means to vse:
 Least thou too late with sighes do say,
 Thy sinnes haue wrought thy soules decay.

Thus

Thus did shee then expresse his humoz, and ofte in other
 sorte: mean while Arthemio, which set not his minde on
 mourning, kept on his ryot after such a rate, that Giraldos
 substance was sone consumd; and had his power matcht y
 hugenesse of his desires, not an India of wealth might haue
 suffizd. Now were his lands all morgag'd which with the
 fairest and most worth of his houshold furniture, as also his
 owne, and his attyre, sell thzough forfeits into the hands
 of brokeing Usurers. Oh what a banquet was this for the,
 whose chiefe making, springs from the marring of such vn-
 thristis; their rising, from the ruines of silly men! These
 are they whom (to omit their other titles) we may iustly
 terme the devils forerunners, preparing his waies before
 him. For when they haue left a man as bare, as hee
 lefte Iob, of whose goods by Gods permission, hee made
 large hauocke, then takes hee his turne of entrance;
 to dispatch the tragedie, which these his factozs (coheirs
 of his infernall kingdome) haue set so forward. His
 first plott is to induce the silly wretches thus turnd out
 of all, to doubt of diuine prouidence. Whereon hee sug-
 gesses motions of dispaire, teaching them to number their
 crosses with curses, and in this humoz packes them away,
 some to the beame, some to the water, each to a desperate
 end. If hee meete with lighter spirits, not thus incombred
 thzough melancholly, nor setting their misfortunes so neer
 the heart, but resolute to liue maugre fortunes frownes,
 These he fashions for his purpose in another mould, fitting
 them with a method for vnlawfull shiftes: vnder such a Tu-
 tor working wonders euen on leaden wits, how can there
 bee a dearth of bad directions, or not plenty of deuillish
 practises, whereto he sharpenes their concepts and corages
 beyond their naturall promptnesse? of this seconde sorte
 Arthemio within fewe monethes became a member; Loe
 here the issue: for sone after, his house growing queasie sto-
 macht thzough a long consumption of the moueables,
 did.

did in a generall vomit spewe out the matter, the mystris,
 and all their traine, Oh whereto in this distresse should
 pooze Valeria betake hir selfe? Hony shee had none, should
 shee borrowe, who would lend hir, or vouchsafe hir one
 nights lodging: such was þe rumor of hir leauoness: should
 shee begge? who would giue hir? I omit her native
 hautinesse, hir education and former state, all abhorring
 so abiect a profession. But necessitie which tames the
 mightiest, had sone mastered hir afflicted minde, inforcing
 hir to craue of those, which before had craud of hir: yet
 found shee none, which would in wordes, pitie hir woes;
 A slender comfort, but such as other wretches haue. O you
 whome sinne charming with securitie, veiles from your
 eyes the sequels of your shame and sorrow: you which trace
 Valerias steppes in all lasciuiousnesse, hether I summon you
 to read with sighs, in these hir fortunes sad recordes, your
 owne fore-threatned ruine. This is the looking glasse
 which more beseemes you, then that whereon you daylye
 pooze, practising your alluring lookes, and marshalling
 your bodiees pride, thereby to attract more gazers on your
 garishnesse. Had I the mellifluous veine of Orpheus, rich in
 deuine conceipt; and garnisht with the spoyles of Helicon,
 whose rauishing vertue, he helde prisoner to his inchanting
 hymnes and harmony: Then should I with sweete pas-
 sion treat this subiect, and, or winne you from your wan-
 tonnesse by displaying to the full Valerias woes: or proue
 your hartes to be more frozen then the winter mantle of
 Thracian Hebrus, melting through his melodie; more stob-
 burne then the loftie trees baring Hemus and highe Rho-
 dope to waite on him; more brutish then the sauage beasts
 attending him, more stony then the flinty rockes which
 follow'd him, for all these hee mou'd: but moue he could
 not those brain-sicke belldames of your sexe; which con-
 founding his harmonypous notes, with howling noyse, tare
 peccemeale the sillie Poet: These only in not relenting
 should

should you resemble. Looke on the crosses of this wretched creature, & by them looke to your selues, turning so his euill to some good: Weigh in what misery shee needes must liue, whose costly robes were now changd to ragges, his daintie fare to hard crustes, his chambers richly furnished, to base corners, his beauties flourish blasted, more by cares then peares. Shee which whilome scould to looke, and almost to tread vpon the ground; Now durst not raise thence his blubbred eyes, fearing to looke to wards heauen, such was his sinne: blushing to looke on men, such was his shame. Shee which earst on highest dayes would keepe the house, (sudging his attyre for such times to meane (how costly soeuer) did now shame to bee seene on any day. But when night (the veile of earthes vanities) had drawne his sable curtaines ouer the welkin, in this generall hue of horror, bereauing eyes and ears of daies objects: See of all the most unhappie and now wholly the guest of darknesse, wandring alone making musicke to his moanes, with deepe-fetched sighes: no; bewaild shee onely his owne estate, but lamented likewise his childzens distresse, iustly feared although not known: for they not accompanying their careful mother, shifted for themselves, but where or how, she knew not. After many dayes of such distresse, many weekes of woe, many monthes worne out in misery, it was his hap to heere of his man lockeys aboad and fortune, which hauing married a poore widow, kept a simple victuallinghouse in an out part of the city: At the heereing of which newes shee was long and much perplexed, wauering in vncertainty of resolution: For when shee weighed the causlesse wronges, which shee had offered him in wordes and blows: Howe shee had ofte incensed his husband, ofte others, inuiously to reuile and beat him, no; euer granted him one hower of quiet; See could no lesse then feare that his repaire to him, should rather aggrauate his present griefe, in receauing some reprochfull answer, then any way attaine

desired ease. But weighing the extremitie of his neede, and well knowing that not imploring his reliefe, he could not any way better his estate, but that it still grew worse, the silly woman thus on all sides beset with sorowes, chose rather to prosecute the slightest hope, then to continue the certainty of his ill happe: Having thus resolu'd she went to seeke him, and sue to him for succor; him whom she so much had injured: Lo heere the issue of his dying fathers execration; which by the way calling to minde, at thought thereof, shee stream'd downe from his pynded cheekes, showers of salt teares.

Coming & finding him, (which greeued to see him in such a plight turned somewhat aside his troubled countenance) she thus bespake him. Ah Lockey deigne yet to looke on mee, and in one dewe, take thy full reuenge of all the wronges that I haue done thee: See his miserable, which was immodest: See him humbled at thy feete; acknowledging with teares his causlesse fury oft inflicted on thy gilelesse body: ah shunne me not: I was thy mistrisse, nor scorne me that once gaue thee bread, though now thou seest mee baser then the meanest seruant, nor refuse I that degree if thou vouchsafe so to receaue mee. What greater triumph on such a foe canst thou desire, then to haue him subiect to thy checkes, and within the compasse of thy controules, which with vniust controules and checkes (those the lightest iniuries) hath ofte wearied thy glowing eares? But sith heauen doth thus auenge on mee thy cause, let that suffice thee: oh adde not to my ruth thy rancour, Cut not my heart with dire reproches, hart so already cut with deepe cares, that almost nothing may bee added to my woes. If tyme or troubles haue not wrested from out thy memozy Giraldos name, then for his sake deigne thou to succour me, and by his example, whose kinde affection my faults could neuer so extinguish, but that it lasted while hee liu'd. Wretch as I am, how am I blinded thus to
pleade

plead against my selfe? louing him, thou needes must loath mee, through whom hee led a ioylesse life, and dyed sorrowing for my sinne: Whereon then shall I relye, but on the milonelle of thy nature? If this hope doe likewise fayle mee, then whereto liue I? why are my dayes prolonged to drawe on my liues distresse. In uttering these last wordes, shee cast downe hir countenance, fixing hir eyes stedfastly on the earth: but Lockey vnable to conteine his teares, therein shewing how deeply hir plaints had pierced him with remozecfull passion, did thus gently comfort hir.

Had mine eares receiued from the report of others, that which mine eyes do now assure me of, I should neuer haue beleueed it. Good God, could such former wealch ende in such present want? such plenty in such penury, such bza-uery in such basenesse, such pleasure in such pinching woe? O Lord how righteous are thy iudgements: Yet Distris, (for so Ile still call and accompt you, noz shall your fortune, or former iniuries cancell my duetye) I coulde wish, (if I might wish it without impiety) that this example of Gods iustice had beene shewed on any other: But wee must thinke that whatsoeuer hee in his wilddome doth determine, is doubtlesse for the best If you can make true vse of his correction, you shalbe happie in your unhappinesse and these your miseries be a steppe to your felicitie.

That I am forry to see you in this state, my wordes and countenance may witnesse, and my greued heart doth fele: But sith it is so, I yet reioyce that I am able by releasing you, to shewe how deare to mee the name and memorie of my deceased master is: I accept you therefore as a welcome guest, assuring you of such entertainment as I can afforde; and touching the wronges that you haue done me, I will strine so to forget them, as if I neuer had sustained them.

This saide hee, noz saide hee moze, then he perfozm'd, for immediatly he tooke hir into his house, where all the tyme of hir aboad with him (which was so long as hir selfe would tary) shee had such reliefe as his poore estate could yealde, affozded without grudging: noz did hee euer greene hir, with the least vpbzaiding of former wrongs, noz suffer, (while hee was present or knewe of it,) that shee shoulde take the sleightest paines, moze then in her owne affaires: But in his absence oft, to ease and please his wife, she would playe the tapster, and voluntarily addresse hir selfe to helpe hir in all kinde of drudgeries. While in this sort shee liu'd, not altogether so haplesse as befoze, Archemio no longer able to continue his shifting, sith he had thereby indangered his life, made this his last shifte, closely to shifte himselfe away: sence when he was neuer seene about the cytie, noz almost heard of; Only some obscure reports haue past, of his long scouring the westernne plaines for purses, and that being afterwarde apprehended, hee dyed miserably in a common Gaol befoze his publique araignment, so preuenting the open scandall of an ignominious death. Howe so euer this bee likely in regarde of his former wicked life, yet not being therof assured, I will suspend my censure, noz presumptuously descant of the vnknotwen proceedings of the almighty. But Valeria after long residence with lockey, at last, whether hoping on some better place, or loath continually to trouble him, sith no way able to requite his kindnesse, fondly left him and thereby replung'd hir selfe into hir former miseries, falling in the ende to little better then open beggery: from which so abiect state of life, shee nere recouered till death gaue truce to hir distresses: death wherein only shee was not haplesse; But if to wretched people the preuenting of any sorrow may bee term'd good happe, then so was hers, in not seeing hir suruiuing childzens miserable endes, such as their dissolute bzinging vpon, did euer thzeaten, and their leaud courses

ses iustly merit : of these the elder flying for some offence beyond the seas, and there following armes in the ciuill tumults of distracted Belgia, but soone staining the most honourable profession of a souldier by playing the traitour, had his deserts paine with the halter, and therein leaping desperately from the ladder, he tooke his iourney into the other world. The yonger confirmed so in the loue of headstrong libertie through his corrupt education, that hee could not long brooke any seruice : succourd by none, because disdaining subiection to all; died in the fieldes, and there lay a loathsome spectacle; for his stinking carcasse had no other couerture then heauens vast circumference, and his vnburied limmes were seized on by rauenous birdes, who therewith glutted their carrion gorges. Somewhat befoze his last gaspe with an oft interrupted voice, he faintly groned out these bitter mones. O whither shall I turne me, whereon shall I hope, or what shall I desire? my bones ake, my bowels gnawe, my feet rot, each limme doth shiuer, and my whole bodie is full of paine : life I loath thee, life when leaust thou me? death why dalliest thou with these delaies? why comest thou in such degrees of torments? thy messengers are more terrible then thy selfe : yet come not death, least in exchange of these my present woes, thou plunge me in eternall woe.

O sinne, how sweet is thy beginning, how sower thy end? O father, but enough of thee, for thy name doth cut my soule anew. O mother, but too much of thee, cruell through immoderate kindnes : O unhapie brother, but happie in respect of me : for though thy end were likewise shameful, yet was thy carcasse couered with earth : but mine must lie still in this stinking place, to pollute the aire, and feed the rauenous foules : yet helpe me some good man who passing by may heare my mones : giue me at least some shelter from this iniurie of the weather ; unkind men, will none relieue me : yet not unkind, because Gods iustice

hardens their heartes : oh that is it, whereon when I doe thinke, I wish that I had beene borne a beast, that with my life all my miseries might ende : yet helpe mee, O my God, sith men forsake me : though hell looke for me, and I dare not looke on heauen : though my offences be innumerable, yet is thy mercie infinitely greater : mercie sweete Lord, father of mercie, mercie it selfe : O that my mother had taught mee to pray, when shee taught me to reuile my father : Alas, I knowe no forme of praier, saue this onely which my heart laden with anguish doth thus endite. Mercie sweete Lorde, let my soule embrace thy mercie, let thy mercie embrace my soule. But aye me, my paines increase, life and death doe combat in my breast : this their strife doubles my torments : ah, but helles torments are farre greater. From them and these, sweet Lorde deliuer me, for in thee: Here as he faine would haue proceeded, life failing, made these his last wordes vnperfect, with whose death I end this dolorous discourse.

THus (Gentlemen) haue you heard briefly related the the Tragique issue of Giralδος wooing in age, and Valerias wantonnesse in youth : Had I intituled this discourse, A looking Glasse, the Metaphor had not been wholly immateriall : for herein may all sortes of readers note sundry points of weight : husbandes, the danger of too much doting : wiues in her fall, the end of lustfull follie : parents, the mightie perill of soothing their children in check-free licentiousnesse : children, the fruit of disobedience and vndutifull demeanour : rash proceeders, the great difference of good and bad counsell, of honest and dishonest companie : with the danger of not embracing the one, and not shunning the other : and that the rather, sith the force of companie, hath in the effecting of either such exceeding force, according to the Italian prouerbe, *Dimmi con chi tu vai, & saprò quel che fai.* *Ictus piscator sapit*, but if wee account

account him wise, which being once hurt, doth shunne a second hazard : how much more iustly may wee commend their wisdom, who beeing not hurt at all, but learning heedfulness at others costes, gouerne warily themselves by noting the issue of their indiscretion : which fore-sight and good fortune I wish vnto you all.

FINIS.

